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Islamic Affairs

ICO Rejects Israeli 'Occupation' of Lebanon

JN0708120991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meeting in Istanbul has adopted a resolution on southern Lebanon as an issue independent from the Middle East crisis. This resolution, he said, denounces the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and calls on the international community to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which demands Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

In an interview today with Amman Radio, the Lebanese foreign minister discussed Lebanese-Palestinian relations. He said he held talks with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department, who is heading the Palestinian delegation to the conference. The talks, he added, dealt with the conditions of Palestinians in southern Lebanon. Faris Buwayz added that Lebanese-Palestinian relations have entered a new phase of understanding and cooperation based on respect for Lebanon's sovereignty, laws, and stability.

The Lebanese foreign minister said the Istanbul meeting has solidified relations among the participating countries and has dealt with the issues raised with a high degree of maturity and realism, particularly regarding the Middle East.

Iraqi Minister Comments on ICO Session, Issues

Rejects Kuwaiti Proposal

JN0708160591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 7 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the Iraqi delegation to the Islamic foreign ministers' conference made effective contributions to instill the principle of solidarity and cooperation among the Islamic states. He added that this was positively reflected in the speeches delivered by the many delegations participating in the conference.

At a news conference today on the sidelines of the conference, al-Sahhaf affirmed that Iraq constantly urges solidarity and confronts any attempt aimed at sowing dissension and sedition in the Muslim ranks.

Al-Sahhaf referred to the conspiracies being hatched against Iraq and also to the attempts to strangle it economically, affirming that there are countries that are using the same methods as the U.S., as if the U.S. assigned them with the task of harming Iraq.

The minister rejected the draft resolution Kuwait submitted to the conference, saying that it repeated U.S. allegations. He added: Iraq submitted a list containing the names of approximately 3,000 Kuwaiti detainees, but the Kuwaitis only accepted 300 of them. The International Committee of the Red Cross was informed of the contents of this list to facilitate the detainees' repatriation.

Al-Sahhaf noted Iraq's favorable response to the UN inspection teams, saying: The inspection teams—five in number—have all confirmed Iraq's favorable response, with the exception of one that had problems because its visit coincided with 'Id al-Adha holidays.

Regarding the damage the U.S. aggression inflicted on Iraq, he said: Our infrastructure was gravely damaged. Iraq is facing problems in its repair efforts, particularly in food, baby milk, fertilizer, and medicine plants; drinking water projects; and bridges.

The minister added that in the near future a number of laws will be proclaimed on the multiparty system, the formation of parliament, freedom of the press, the expansion of the private sector, and entrenching Kurdish autonomy. He went on to say: In 1979, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn proposed a political program and plan providing for a new constitution for the country. We are currently resuming our efforts to implement this plan.

Praises Turkish Relations

TA0708165591 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1627 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (A.A)—Iraq's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, said here on Wednesday that Iraq wants high-level relations with Turkey in all fields.

Speaking to A.A, al-Sahhaf, currently in Turkey to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization-member countries, said Iraq would give priority to Turkish companies in the reconstruction of his country.

He also said Iraqi firms had always had good relations with Turkish businessmen.

Al-Sahhaf said the sanctions of the United Nations must be lifted so that a major oil pipe-line can be opened and Turkey must do its best in this direction for both its own benefit and that of Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf also said he spoke with Foreign Minister Safa Giray and asked him to appoint an ambassador to Iraq as soon as possible and send Turkish personnel to the embassy in Baghdad.

As for the sharing of water resources, he said this was provided for by international laws but that the matter should be discussed between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.

"I share the same opinion with my Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar' that the Arab countries will not attend the

(Turkish sponsored) water summit (in Istanbul in September) if Israel also participates. The Zionists have nothing to do with it," he said.

Asserts Sovereignty in North Iraq

TA0708171391 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1647 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (A.A)—Iraq's State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, said here on Wednesday that Iraq has administrative sovereignty north of the 36th parallel but has no armed forces in the region.

Speaking at a press conference, al-Sahhaf, currently in Turkey to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization-member countries, said certain ICO countries "don't like Iraq" and have attitudes similar to that of the United States.

Claiming the existence of a U.S. plot against Iraq, al-Sahhaf said the details of this plot cold be easily clarified.

"They are closing the way to peace, and trying to strangle us with their sanctions. The foreign troops in Turkey do not interest us. The United States is conducting a policy of terror against Iraq," he said.

"Six delegations came to Iraq for checks. Five of the reports showed Iraq respected the sanctions," he said, referring to six delegations from the United Nations and the International Agency for Atomic Energy, which recently visited Iraq to examine its nuclear installations.

He said the last delegation was unable to thoroughly visit the installations as their arrival coincided with the Islamic feast of 'Id al-Adha, but that Iraq was ready to cooperate with the U.N.

Al-Sahhaf said sanctions against Iraq are inhumane and should be lifted so that medicines and food, and not arms, can be bought.

He added that a new constitution, presidential elections, a multi-party system, freedom of the press and Kurdish autonomy were currently on the agenda of the Iraqi Government.

Meetings Continue on ICO Conference Sidelines

Al-Shar' Receives PLO's Qaddumi

JN0708101691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul—On the sidelines of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] ministerial meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in Istanbul with Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. They discussed developments in the region, the peace process, and the situation in the Arab Maghreb.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' also received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. The Syrian and Tunisian ambassadors in Ankara were also present at the meeting. They discussed bilateral ties and the peace process.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' also received Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department. They discussed the peace conference, Palestinian participation, and Palestinian representation at the conference.

Al-Shar' met with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, Qatari minister of agriculture and municipal affairs. They reviewed the ICO ministerial meeting's agenda and bilateral ties.

Al-Shar' also met with Akram Zaki, secretary general of the Foreign Relations Ministry in Pakistan, equivalent to a minister of state. They discussed the ICO meeting agenda.

Meets Counterparts on Peace Efforts

JN0808055991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has received Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the general people's committee for external liaison and international cooperation of Libya. They discussed the current situation in the region, international peace efforts, and bilateral ties.

Mr. al-Shar' also received Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur. The talks centered on the proposed October peace conference and the nature of Palestinian participation in the conference.

The foreign minister also received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi last night. They reviewed the current Arab situation in light of the international efforts to convene a peace conference. They also discussed fraternal bilateral relations.

Kuwaiti, Algerian Ministers Meet

LD0708124891 London KUNA in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 7 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi. After the meeting, Minister Ibrahimi told KUNA that his meeting with Shaykh Salim was cordial and brotherly and that they discussed conditions in Kuwait. He was assured by Shaykh Salim that the situation has begun to return to normal there. Ibrahimi pointed out that the meeting also dealt with Arab and Islamic affairs and said that we are cooperating to understand these situations as much as possible in order to overcome them.

Libyan Envoy, Velayati Hold Talks

LD0708091991 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 7 Hannibal [August] [JANA, Arab Maghreb Union pool]—The [Libyan] secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met with Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister of Iran, in Istanbul yesterday. At this meeting, the two sides discussed in detail the bilateral relations between the two countries and matters of common interest.

The foreign liaison secretary gave detailed account of the project of the great man-made industrial river implemented thanks to the revolutionary will of the great al-Fatih revolution. Meanwhile, Dr. Velayati expressed his appreciation and admiration over this project which would effectively contribute in making food available and achieve self-sufficiency in terms of agricultural products.

Malaysian Minister Meets Giray

BK0608135691 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today held discussions in Istanbul with his Turkish counterpart, Mr. Safa Giray, on political and economic matters. A Wisma Putera [Foreign Ministry] statement said the two of them agreed on the need to step up economic cooperation, especially among Islamic countries. They said the lack of cooperation resulted from the cold attitude of most members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation or OIC.

Datuk Abdullah and Mr. Giray agreed to use opportunities available through the OIC meeting and also the support of Islamic countries to make a success of the economic programs. Datuk Abdullah is in Istanbul to attend the OIC meeting which began yesterday.

The statement said Mr. Giray praised Malaysia for its economic development and emphasized Turkey's wish to intensify bilateral cooperation with Malaysia.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Sends Memo on Peace Effort to Netherlands

LD0708191891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The PLO sent an official memorandum today to the Netherlands Government, the current chairman of the EEC, on the latest developments in the peace process and the efforts underway to bring about a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian cause.

In its memorandum to the Netherlands Foreign Ministry, the PLO Political Department pointed out that the repeated EEC statements have reflected the EC stance on how to resolve such a conflict. They represent a positive contribution, having laid the bases and principles for a peaceful solution, which can be summarized with the need for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, ending the Zionist occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories since 1967, including occupied Jerusalem, guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights, particularly its right to self-determination, and rejecting the fait accompli policy, the Zionist settlement policy, and the Zionist decision to annex Jerusalem, reiterating that the latter is part of occupied territories.

The Palestinian memorandum asserted the need for the participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative, in any international peace efforts, including the proposed forthcoming peace conference on the Middle East.

The memorandum urged the EC countries to exert effective efforts with all parties concerned, particularly with the United States, to bring about a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace based on international legality which guarantees the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 on a Zionist withdrawal from all occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, as it is impossible to imagine a real peace in the Middle East region without such a withdrawal.

'Arafat Receives Soviet Ambassador in Tunis

LD0708180991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, received Soviet Ambassador to Tunis Boris Shiborin yesterday evening. Their talks focused on the latest political developments in the region and the efforts underway to bring about a comprehensive and lasting peace based on our Palestinian people's legitimate rights, foremost of which is the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

National Council To Review Peace Efforts in Sep

LD0708204191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestine National Council has decided to convene next month in the capital, Algiers, to discuss ways to deal with the new peace initiative.

PLO Rebuts Criticism of Proposed Delegation

NC0808062591 Paris AFP in English 0241 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, 8 Aug (AFP)—[passage omitted] In Tunis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee issued a statement defending the group of

Palestinian personalities that the PLO has directed to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss the conference.

The statement, issued from the PLO's exile headquarters, called on Palestinians to "preserve our national unity," and criticised what it said was a "campaign of denigration" against the personalities, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi.

This followed the distribution in the occupied Gaza Strip of a leaflet produced by the Islamic Jihad Palestinian group, threatening the two with death for having talked to Mr. Baker.

Palestinians in the occupied territories are deeply divided over the wisdom of taking part in the peace conference.

Meanwhile, the PLO leadership sought to distance itself from a statement issued by its Cairo representative, Sa'id Kamal, who had said earlier in the day that the Palestinian organisation had "already agreed" to take part in the peace conference.

A PLO official in Tunis, quoted by the Palestinian WAFA news agency, said that Kamal had been expressing "a personal viewpoint."

The PLO also submitted a memorandum to the European Community on Wednesday, asking it to work for "real peace" in the region, WAFA said.

Executive Committee Member on Representation Issue

PM0708150991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Aug 91 p 3

[Mazin al-Saghir report on interview with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that successive developments in the peace process "have moved us into a more difficult phase, and our only option is the Palestinian people's participation (in the negotiations) through a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside. He demanded "guarantees" and stressed their "vital nature" to the Palestinians. He said: "Our reply is deferred pending the results of the contacts and the process of searching for guarantees and the best Palestinian representation formula over the next two months."

On the endeavors being made to convene the peace conference 'Abd-Rabbuh said in an interview conducted with him by AL-HAYAH at his residence in Tunis that "we have now entered a more difficult phase and we do not have many options. There is one option, namely the Palestinian people's participation through a delegation from inside and outside the territories, including Jerusalem, and this question cannot be subjected to the traditional flexibility. The reason is that the fate of the Palestinian issue as a whole and the Palestinian people's future will depend on the formula through which we enter the peace conference. We have requested political guarantees from the United States and the Soviet union, and these guarantees are summed up in three fundamental things:

"First, the outcome of the peace process will be total withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"Second, the right to self-determination is a guaranteed right for the Palestinian people.

"Third, all forms of settlement shall be stopped once the peace process begins.

"These guarantees are important to us because we cannot enter the unknown, and our position differs from the position of any other party taking part in this process. The Arab states might not lose a lot by entering the settlement process since there are no conditions concerning their representation or the way in which they will tackle their rights. As for us, there are prior conditions regarding our representation and even harsher conditions on the way our rights should be handled. So the Americans and the Israelis want to confine the discussion of Palestinian rights to the framework of the autonomy plan.

"Therefore the guarantees are vital to us, and representation cannot be separated from the guarantees. Our reply regarding our participation or nonparticipation will remain deferred pending the results of the contacts and the process of searching for guarantees and the best representation formula over the coming two months; that is before the date set for convening the conference in October."

He said that delaying discussion of the Jerusalem question until a later stage "is a maneuver designed to pave the way for excluding Jerusalem from any talks, and its exclusion constitutes a precedent that can lead to very serious results."

He said: "Regarding the issue of a joint delegation with Jordan, we have no problem vis-a-vis formulating coordination and joint action with Jordan. The problem is primarily: How can a Palestinian role be secured and is there a Palestinian side which can participate with Jordan or others in the peace process? What is clear so far is that what is required is merely Palestinians within the framework of the Jordanian delegation, thus abolishing a distinctive and independent role as well as the Palestinian national rights, including self-determination."

On the PLO's view on how invitations to attend the conference should be sent, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "When the Palestinian delegation is formed an invitation can be sent to the head of that delegation, but if there is a joint formula with Jordan, in that case the invitation can be sent to the two sides together."

He denied the existence of indications of restoring the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, saying that "the Americans

have moved on from the issue of the Abu-al-'Abbas operation as a condition and have started to talk in vague language about other conditions that are totally obscure. The aim is clear—to evade the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. Nevertheless, we believe that the key to tackling current questions from now until October is to open that door once again, despite the existence of continuous contacts between us and the Americans via third parties."

Abd-Rabbuh thought that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the Arab Maghreb states represented an inclination to invite these states to participate in the upcoming peace conference along the lines of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. "We hope that Arab participation will not be so easy or without obtaining something in return from the other side. That participation should not be easy and the reward should be the improvement of the conditions set for convening the conference, whether in terms of the foundation on which the international legitimacy's resolutions are based or in terms of the Palestinian role at that conference. In fact this is the Arab Maghreb states' only justification for participation in the process, namely that they should be a force of support and backing for Palestinian rights both before and at the conference."

On the latest internal developments in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, especially after the conference held in Damascus by its Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: "Regrettably, brother Nayif Hawatimah—and in the most difficult conditions facing Palestinian struggle—held an expanded meeting for his supporters and elected at the meeting his own bodies, thus announcing his total divorce from us. We tried over recent weeks and through direct dialogue between him and me to prevent matters being pushed in that direction, especially in the present conditions, but he refused to commit himself to anything and had already prepared for that meeting. He believed that calling such a meeting a 'conference' would grant it informational legitimacy. This is very regrettable and harmful in the present circumstances, and we do not know on the basis of what political calculations matters are being pushed in that direction. This step, which lacks a spirit of responsibility, will not affect our course and role. We will continue our work as an integral part of the PLO and the Palestinian movement inside the homeland, following the same line, national policy, and realism; that is in alliance with all the national forces inside the PLO, especially the major groups belonging to Fatah, the Communist Party, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

PLO Participation Seen 'Essential' for Peace

TA0605190891 Jerusalem AL FAJR in English 5 Aug 91 p 4

[Khalil Tuma article: "PLO Must Be Invited to Middle East Conference"]

[Text] The recent political development for the Middle East, the Gorbachev-Bush announcement at the Moscow summit of their intention to hold a peace conference in October, seems to be encouraging. For many years, Palestinians and Arabs have been calling for a peace conference to bring the Arab-Israeli conflict to an end. This wish has been supported all the time by the majority of the international community. But the fact that both superpowers are now moving ahead to find a solution to the conflict should in fact nourish the hopes of all peace lovers.

Nevertheless, certain elements are missing in the current political efforts and their absence enhances our fears of the possible outcome of the whole process if the present trend continues.

It is obvious that the American and Soviet leaders have opted to deviate from the previous criteria for holding the international peace conference in the Middle East. Previously this was nourished by a number of United Nations resolutions. It is also obvious that the Soviets, who originally supported the U.N. General Assembly formula, have changed their position to fit with the American concept of the issue.

The conference suggested by the two leaders this week is not in accordance with U.N. General Assembly resolutions. The U.N. resolutions call for an international conference to be held under U.N. auspices with the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on equal footing with the other parties.

Now the U.N. role is minimized to a mute representative, and the permanent Security Council members other than the United States and the Soviet Union are absent from the conference. Most important in the latest developments, however, is the intentional shun of the leadership of the Palestinian people—the PLO.

Despite the deviation from the original criteria of a conference that Palestinians and other Arabs have agreed to in various summit conferences and meetings, the new plan for a conference certainly has a better chance for success if the Palestinian leadership were to attend. Based on past political experience, it has become clear to the international community that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved if the real core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the Palestinian question, remains unsolved. It is, therefore, essential to invite the PLO to attend the conference. And just like all other parties, it should be invited without any discrimination.

No one should expect the PLO to accept ceding its right to appoint Palestinian delegates to the negotiations. The Palestinians, just like any other party at the conference, should exercise the right to choose their delegates freely without the intervention of any party. At this time, there are those trying to impose on the Palestinians to attend the conference as members of a Jordanian delegation, that none of the Palestinian delegates have any relations with the PLO or come from East Jerusalem. Such terms

are unacceptable. The Palestinians have made it clear that there will be no compromise on their basic rights and the issue of Jerusalem. Attendance to the conference with unequal footing will only open the way to imposing unacceptable solutions on the Palestinians.

The Israeli conditional acceptance to attend the conference, announced by the Israeli premier last week, is no more than an attempt to evade international pressure and to blame the Palestinians for hindering the convention of the conference. Israel knows well that the Palestinians will not accept Israel appointing their delegation or their interference in the issue, and they know that the Palestinians will not accept attendance to a conference which aims at confiscating their national rights.

Should the conference be limited to Israel and the Arab countries which have accepted the conference conditions, then the outcome will be anything but a peace settlement.

We believe that the conference should lead to implementing the international legitimacy on all aspects of the conflict, and first and foremost on the Palestinian question.

We also believe that immediate coordination between the PLO and the rest of the Arab countries, particularly those most involved in the conflict, should take place so that no opening is left for hostile maneuvers against the Arab nation. This coordination should be voiced and supported by the popular and national movement, and the PLO should continue its relentless efforts in this respect.

We believe that peace forces in Israel should unite to foil the right-wing forces who are attempting to undermine peace efforts. We hope that these peace forces will exert pressure on their government to move toward peace and change its intransigent attitude toward Palestinian representation and other important issues.

VOP Reaffirms PLO Right To Choose Delegates

LD0708195191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Those who have observed developments in the region could notice that the U.S. Administration has decided to consider the Israeli Government's response as a yes, without looking at the list of conditions attached, especially those relating to the exclusion of the Arab residents of Jerusalem from the Palestinian delegation and the rejection of the principle of land for peace.

The U.S., however, is attempting to obtain a Palestinian response which includes, above all else, acceptance of the Israeli conditions. The U.S. secretary of state, James Baker, has justified this objective by saying: The Palestinian people will be the greatest winner if the peace process starts, and the greatest loser if it does not.

The Palestinian people's agreement to attend the proposed peace conference has become conditional on its agreement to exclude the Arab residents of Jerusalem from the Palestinian delegation. In addition to being flagrant interference in the Palestinian people's right to chose its representatives, this matter also means supporting Israel's refusal to table the topic of Jerusalem at the negotiations, if only symbolically.

The current U.S. efforts only focus on getting the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table. It is clear that the U.S. Administration has decided to postpone examination of the issues to be discussed until after the talks have begun.

This raises several questions: How could a party to the conflict be allowed to chose its delegation and that of its enemies at the same time? What does it mean to get the parties to the conflict to the negotiating table? Is it reasonable to expect the Palestinians to accept Israel's conditions to arrive at the negotiating table?

Theoretically, we can say that getting parties to the conflict to the negotiating table means designating the parties capable of making peace, which are generally parties that participated in the war, or in making the state of war, or the state of no peace and no war. When any one party insists on interfering with the formation of another party's delegation, it means that we have completely and partially strayed from the requisites of peacemaking.

The matter here is not one of procedure or form. In such matters, there is normally a possibility for reaching a compromise. The right of the parties to the conflict to choose the members of their delegations is a matter that cannot be subject to bargaining or to attempts to reach compromises. The sides trying to launch the peace process in the region should not make their first step in a direction which leads to the abyss.

Madrid Paper Interviews Faysal al-Husayni

PM0808082191 Madrid ABC in Spanish 3 Aug 91 p 24

[Interview with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni by B. Sanchez-Alba in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sanchez-Alba] Are your people prepared to attend a peace conference without the United Nations and as part of a Jordanian-Palestinian mixed delegation, as Israel proposes?

[Al-Husayni] We support following international law and implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which demand that Israel return the territories won in the 1967 war. If this is made unambiguously clear at the conference, we are prepared to be flexible about

Palestinian representation. If the interpretation of those resolutions, which are based on the principle of land in return for peace, is vague, however, we will be less flexible.

[Sanchez-Alba] Will you now accept something less than a Palestinian state—for instance, the autonomy proposed by the 1989 Yitzhaq Shamir government peace plan—or is it all or nothing?

[Al-Husayni] If what lies at the end of the tunnel is a Palestinian state, we are prepared to proceed in stages, but we cannot accept autonomy if we are told: "Then we will see what can be done" about ending the Israeli occupation and setting up a Palestinian state. We will accept the idea of stages leading to Palestinian self-determination only when the Israeli occupation is ended, but we must be certain that this condition, which will make self-determination possible, exists. We cannot accept the autonomy proposed for five years while the land and water are controlled by the Israelis, and they continue to found new settlements in the occupied territories. In that way, after five years we will find that in the West Bank and Gaza there is a majority of Jewish settlers who control the land, and we will have no choice but to accept the annexation of those occupied territories.

[Sanchez-Alba] The ultimate aim of your struggle is the establishment of a Palestinian state. Do you view this as a real possibility in the near future?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I would even venture to say that it will be in less than 10 years.

[Sanchez-Alba] What makes you feel so optimistic?

[Al-Husayni] I believe in people. Moreover, the condemnation of the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories which Baker made in mid-May when he said that they are "the main obstacle to peace in the Near East," gives us reason to believe that that the U.S. Government has begun to work seriously to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem. This stance is positive and is in keeping with international law, which is opposed to Israel's inflexible policy.

[Sanchez-Alba] Stances have now changed, and in November 1988 the PLO implicitly accepted Israel's existence. Now they are talking about a Palestinian state "alongside" Israel—not "in place of" Israel.

[Al-Husayni] It is not that we believe that the idea of the secular Palestinian state is not good—we still believe that it is the best solution—but, owing to the current situation, it is not possible. As we cannot achieve the desired solution in practice, we accept the solution of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

[Sanchez-Alba] But the ideal remains the secular Palestinian state.

[Al-Husayni] Yes. It is too small a territory to be divided into different states.

[Sanchez-Alba] The ideal would mean the State of Israel's disappearance.

[Al-Husayni] That was before 1947, when Israel did not exist as a state. But now, because Israel is there, we demand that the other part of the UN resolution, which is a Palestinian state, be implemented.

[Sanchez-Alba] Does the mutual hatred felt by Palestinians and Israelis still permit you to be optimistic about a peaceful solution to the conflict and the two peoples' coexistence?

[Al-Husayni] In December 1989 there was a demonstration—the so-called "human chain for peace"—with the participation of 30,000 Palestinians, Israelis, and foreigners, who surrounded the wall of the old part of Jerusalem. That demonstration showed me that peace is possible and is increasingly close.

[Sanchez-Alba] At the entrance to your house there is graffiti in Arabic which says "yes to violence." Do you agree with it?

[Al-Husayni] We Palestinians also have our extremists, but that slogan runs counter to my ideas.

[Sanchez-Alba] Yet you are regarded as the ideologist of the Palestinian uprising or intifadah; that is, the active struggle, in whose name dozens of Jews have been killed in Israel and the occupied territories.

[Al-Husayni] Look, there will be no progress solely through political negotiations, nor will there be progress solely through the struggle on the ground. The two methods must complement one another to achieve our aims, but I am opposed to armed struggle.

Peace Depends on U.S. Will To Pressure Israel

LD0708202191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers: The conclusions that can be deduced from the sixth visit concluded by the U.S. secretary of state in the region which [word indistinct] with tedium and weariness, suggests that the U.S. Administration is not concerned with bringing comprehensive and durable peace to the region as much as it is concerned with imposing the conditions of defeat on the Arabs and the Palestinians, exactly as it is doing toward Iraq. By so doing, it only seeks to emphasize to the Arabs that Iraq was not the only country defeated in the war, but the Arabs at large also were defeated—particularly the Palestinians, who the U.S. Administration is pressuring in all kinds of ways to sign the contract of surrender and submission to U.S. conditions, given that the United States is now the sole mistress of the new world order.

Yesterday, in a statement to REUTER, the brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] revealed

the true nature of the U.S. plan and pointed out that the objective of the current U.S. efforts is in fact the exclusion of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arabs. He appealed to the hearts and the conscience of the Arab nation to stand by Arab Jerusalem and to consolidate the Palestinian people's steadfastness. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Administration is making a big mistake if it thinks that it can confiscate the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through fabricated formulas that overlook the PLO as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It must be recalled here that bringing a comprehensive and lasting peace to the region depends on Washington's readiness to exert adequate pressure on Israel to force it to relinquish its obstinacy and to accept the resolutions of international legitimacy. Without that, the region will go through difficult times which could lead to the shaking of its stability and the deepening of conflicts which U.S. efforts will not be able to contain.

VOP on Baker 'Retraction' on Peace Conference

LD0708222791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, a few hours before departing from the region and ending his visit to all stops of his sixth tour, the U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker, retracted the fixed date previously issued at the Moscow summit for the Mideast peace conference. He pointed out that the month of October is not definite for the holding of this conference. According to news agency reports, he also provided an explanation or a quasi-explanation on Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that negotiations will be between Israel and those Palestinians from the occupied territories who want to coexist peacefully with Israel.

The first retraction creates a larger scope for the Israeli Government to slack off and procrastinate, despite [words indistinct] or what was said about it being a U.S. yes to the proclaimed Israeli conditions and restrictions.

The second retraction, which was a strange explanation of the famous resolutions, consecrates new U.S. support for the Israeli Government [words indistinct] and in its continuous attempts to obliterate and exclude Palestinian national rights and the participation in the proposed peace negotiations of the PLO and all Palestinians inside—including those from East Jerusalem—as well as outside the territories on an equal footing with the other concerned parties.

Widespread political optimism almost prevailed during the last few days. The current U.S. position, considered with its statements, does not allow for such ("optimism) and should not be permitted to form a basis for world and regional public opinion. Despite the fact that Washington tries to [word indistinct] with different sides [word indistinct] on the assumption that the ball is in the Palestinian court, given that a response to the proposals has not yet been issued by the Palestine National Council, which is scheduled to hold a new session next month, it is clear that the Palestinian side itself is still awaiting a candid U.S. response to its questions and an understanding agenda for discussions with it. Any pressure on the Palestine side in this respect will only mean that the march for peace is nothing but a process for normalizing relations between some Arab countries and Israel. It is hence pressure for [word indistinct] indeed, not pressure for good intentions in the interest of peace.

Amman Information Bureau Moved to Embassy

JN0708070491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 22

[Text] Amman—Khalid Mismar, official in charge of the Palestinian Information Bureau in Jordan, has said that the bureau will move from its current building to the embassy from where it will continue its normal operations.

Mismar said this step has been taken under the current austerity measures being observed by the PLO.

Egypt

Mubarak Says Jerusalem Not Obstacle to Peace

NC0708150591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Alexandria, 7 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that the Jerusalem issue should not be an obstacle to convening the international peace conference. He said that Israel should understand that the status of Jerusalem concerns the entire Islamic world as much as it concerns Jews and Christians. In a statement to reporters today, President Mubarak said that we must be clear and have a sincere desire for a solution and for the establishment of peace in the region. We must know full well that the PLO will not be far from the parties to the negotiations because it must be realized that no one from the West Bnak can hold talks and negotiate outside the PLO.

Speaking about the measures taken to open the borders between Egypt and Libya, President Mubarak said our relations with Libya are fundamental, that the reciprocal visits between himself and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are fraternal meetings, and that we are not affected by past periods of alienation. He expressed his conviction that any integration or unity must emanate from the popular base through economic integration and joint projects and cooperation between Egypt and Libya. He stressed that no leader can oppose his people's wish.

Asked about the peace conference, President Mubarak said: I hope that the conference will convene, but I want to mention two points that I have already made to Israeli and U.S. officials. I want to say that so much talk about the Jerusalem issue and Israel's demand that Jerusalem not be represented is a mistake from my point of view and will lead to great confusion in the peace process. He also said: I do not believe at all that so much talk about Jerusalem and the attempt to exclude it from the negotiating table will facilitate the peace process but will obstruct it. He noted that Jerusalem concerns all Muslims throughout the world and Israel must fully understand this issue. He pointed out that failure to find a just solution to the Jerusalem issue will place obstacles and difficulties before the peace process.

Mubarak said the other point is that Israel wants to negotiate with Palestinians who have distanced themselves from the PLO. I agree that no one can say that all the Palestinians living in the West Bank are PLO members. He said: At the same time, we must realize that no Palestinian will hold discussions or negotiate without PLO permission. I say this very frankly to be clear. If we have the desire and determination to reach a solution, we must realize these facts. He went on to say that in light of these facts, we can proceed seriously toward a peace conference.

Responding to a question on the prompt measures that have been taken to abolish the border checkpoints and customs posts with Libya, President Mubarak said that our relations with Libya are fundamental and that his visits to Libya and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visits to Egypt enhance our brotherhood. He pointed out that despite the past alienation, which was a topic of comment by certain news agencies, he maintained that relations between brothers may encounter clouds at times. Things must return to normal, however, because this is only natural between two fraternal and neighborly countries. Our nature and theirs are almost the same, and there is a highway connecting the two countries. Egyptians and Libyans travel freely in every direction.

President Mubarak expressed his belief that integration between Egypt and Libya is not merely a statement or proclamation. He pointed out that a genuine modern integration should stem from the masses and that a merger between peoples emanates from joint economic interests and industries and cooperation in all areas. He noted that these are the foundations of merging, whether the leaders want it or not. He said it is the people's will that imposes its existence to serve their interests, and leaders should respond to the people's will. Mubarak made his statement after inaugurating the new additions to the fertilizers company in Abu Qir in Alexandria.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Israeli Settlement

NC0708195091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1916 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—An official source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said this evening that, while all the parties concerned about Mideast peace are making concerted efforts to pave the way and prepare for the peace conference with a view to achieving a comprehensive, durable, and just settlement that will realize security and stability for all the region's states and peoples, Israeli Government circles are embarking on a plan to build new settlements in the occupied West Bank. This is but a continuation of their constant defiance of the UN resolutions and casts doubt on the truthfulness of their stated intention to cooperate with the parties concerned to achieve a peace that ensures the rights and security of all the region's peoples.

The official source noted that Egypt calls on the international community as well as the Israeli people to halt Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories out of respect for the international community and to avoid wasting the currently available peace opportunity. The source said that Egypt reasserts its firm position that these Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories should not sanction Israeli rights or reduce the Palestinian people's historical rights to their occupied land in the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

Palestinian Delegation Spokesman on Musa Meeting

NC0708124991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received the Palestinian delegation currently visiting Cairo at noon today

for talks which were also attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz. A spokesman for the Palestinian delegation said after the meeting that they had discussed the results of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visits to Jerusalem, Amman, Algiers, and Morocco and his meeting with a Palestinian delegation. He said that the delegation's visit is part of the continuous consultations and coordination with the Egyptian leadership. He added: We discussed the issue of Palestinian representation in general, particularly as things have not taken their final form. He noted that the settlements are a major issue in the negotiations process and that continued settlement building gives the impression that Israel is not serious about the peace process. He pointed out that the settlements are illegal and that the Security Council has passed resolutions condemning settlement building. The Palestinian delegation is scheduled to meet with 'Amr Musa again during its visit.

AL-AHRAM—Shamir Sabotages Peace Efforts

NC0808063591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 8 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "A Habit of Blowing Up Bridges," AL-AHRAM says that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir shows on every occasion that he is the miracle of the modern political age. Whenever efforts to convene the peace conference gather steam, he throws up barriers. He insists that his government wants peace, but it wants peace on its own terms—a peace based on retaining all the Arab land it occupies. AL-AHRAM adds that just when he had revived hope that the peace process could take a step forward by sending his foreign minister to Cairo and receiving the U.S. secretary of state during his recent tour, the Israeli prime minister decided to resort to his favorite hobby of blowing up bridges and prospects. He declared that his country would never withdraw from the occupied territory, which he considers an indivisible part of the eternal homeland of the Jewish people.

AL-AHRAM points out that in conjunction with Shamir's rejection of exchanging land for peace, Israel continues building settlements in the occupied Arab territories despite all international resolutions, appeals, and calls, including the recent one by the EC foreign ministers asking Israel to freeze settlement building as a goodwill gesture to enable the convening of the peace conference as soon as possible.

AL-AHRAM says that, following the invitation sent by the Soviet Union and the United States to convene the conference in October, Israel's stand remains truly baffling, as Shamir continues his efforts to pull the rug out from under the conference and all its participants. Shamir is trying to sabotage the prospects for convening the conference by denying that the Arabs have any right to recover their occupied territory, which he sees as belonging to Israel.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says the conference will be held on the basis of land for peace, in accordance with UN resolutions and the wish of all parties and states, with the exception of Israel. There will be nothing to negotiate about, however, if Israel does not accept this principle and considers the occupied lands its eternal territory. There will be no point in convening this conference if Israel strips it of all meaning.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Italy

WA0708151491

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Italy, including reports on his talks with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, see the Italy & Vatican City section of the 5 August West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sudan

Acting RCC Head Meets With Palestinian Envoy

AB0808084091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, acting chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and Council of Ministers, has reiterated Sudan's firm and principled position in support of the struggle and uprising of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. This is what his excellency said when at his office in the Interior Ministry yesterday he received His Excellency 'Abu-Ali, the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Khartoum, who delivered to him a letter from His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, addressed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the RCC and Council of Ministers, on the latest development affecting the Palestinian cause, as well as expressing condolences on the country's los. of the late Brigadier General Pio Yukwan Deng.

In a press statement, His Excellency 'Abu-Ali said he had briefed Major General al-Zubayr on the progress of the Palestinian cause in the context of the ongoing American moves toward convening a so-called peace conference on the Middle East with the aim of liquidating the Palestinian people's legitimate rights by means of ignoring their sole legitimate representative, the PLO and acceding to the Israeli conditions of excluding the organization and Arab residents of Jerusalem from any upcoming talks. This would be thereby relying on Israel's claim that Jerusalem was and would always remain its unified capital. He added that this violated the principles of international law that the United States claims to uphold.

His Excellency 'Abu-Ali said that a just and durable peace in the region could only be established once Israel had withdrawn from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and had recognized the Palestinian

people's right to self-determination, to return to their land, and to the establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil.

His excellency went on to say that the attempt to transform the Palestinian cause into a border dispute and bring about separate agreements between Israel and each Arab country on its own without the Palestinians obtaining their legitimate rights would never lead to peace but rather to an entrenchment of the Israeli occupation and the realization of the Greater Israel scheme to assimilate millions of new Soviet Jewish immigrants, thereby eliminating the Palestinian people's rights to promote the expansionist settlement aggression in the Arab region.

He said there was danger in the Arab calls to adopt the American point of view of ending the Arab economic boycott of Israel and normalizing relations with Israel before obtaining any Arab right or security and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands.

Decree Reshuffles Ministers, Governors

EA0808061091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] After referring to constitutional Decree No. Three of 1989, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, acting chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has issued a decree providing for the dismissal of the following gentlemen from their posts:

Colonel Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, minister of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers; Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of commerce, cooperation and supply; and Engineer 'Abd al-Mun'im Khawjali 'Uthman, minister of energy and mining.

His excellency also issued a decree providing for the dismissal of: Staff Maj. Gen. Abu al-Qasim Ibrahim Muhammad, governor of Darfur State; Staff Maj. Gen. Andrew Makur, governor of Bahr al-Ghazal State; Staff Maj. Gen. Allison Manani Magaya, governor of Equatoria State. His excellency also issued a decree providing for the dismissal of Dr. Ibrahim Ubaydullah as director-general of the social security fund. After referring to constitutional decree number three of 1989, His Excellency [al-Zubayr Muhammad] issued a decree providing for the appointment of the following gentlemen: Dr. Awad Ahmad al-Jaz, minister of the affairs of the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers; Dr. Uthman Abd al-Wahhab, minister of energy and mining; Dr. Ibrahim Ubaydullah, minister of commerce, cooperation, and supply. His excellency also issued a decree providing for the appointment of: Medical Staff Col. Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr as governor of Darfur State; Police Brigadier General George (Sangok) Arop as governor of Bahr al-Ghazal State; Maj. Gen. (Esterlino Archegan) as governor of the state of Equatoria. His excellency also issued a decree providing for the appointment of Maj. Gen Andrew Makur as ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. Maj. Gen. Zubayr Muhammad Salih, chairman of the RCC and of the Council of Ministers, met this evening with the gentlemen who have been dismissed and thanked them for the efforts they made while they were holding their posts and the sacrifices they made for the sake of Sudan's prosperity and progress.

Western Sahara

UN Intervention Demanded After Moroccan Raids

NC0708165491 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Algiers, Aug 7 (AFP)—The Polisario Front on Wednesday called for U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intervene urgently to halt further bombing raids by Morocco after attacks on two villages in Western Sahara.

Polisario Front Secretary General Mohammed Abdelaziz also addressed his message, released here, to the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He said Moroccan planes had attacked on Sunday and Monday the villages of Tifariti and Meharise, on the border with Mauritania and located "outside the Moroccan defence line."

"Unless this deliberate escalation is not ended promptly, the chances for peace and arduous efforts for the restoration of justice and harmony (in Western Sahara) will be destroyed," Abdelaziz said.

Polisario, fighting for their own Western Sahara state, accused Morocco of seeking to resume the war just a month after King Hassan II of Morocco called a halt to hostilities. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iranian Team Begins To Extinguish Oil Well Fires

LD0708143991 Tehran IRNA in English 1234 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—A 47-member Iranian team of experts now in Kuwait to extinguish some of its burning oil wells set ablaze by retreating Iraqi troops early this year began its activity on Wednesday, an oil ministry official said today.

"The team is to put out 28 burning wells all located in al-Burqan region in southern Kuwait within a year," Mahdi Hoseyni, deputy manager of the ministry's international department said. All necessary equipment and devices needed by the Iranian experts have already been shipped to Kuwait, he said. In case the team finished its work ahead of schedule it would take part in fire fighting operations in other parts of the sheikhdom, the official said.

According to Hoseyni, the amount of crude oil leaking from each burning well in al-Burqan region averaged 10,000 barrels per day which causes a loss of dlrs 160,000 to 170,000 for Kuwait. He declined to reveal the worth of the contract agreed upon by Iran and Kuwait but said it equals with that of other companies in value and in the time within which the task should be accomplished.

The Iranian experts despatched to Kuwait all have valuable experiences in this field. They have already put out several oil wells in Iran set ablaze by Iraq during its aggression on the Islamic Republic, he said.

Other countries involved in fire fighting in Kuwait are the U.S., Romania, China and Canada. Out of 640 burning wells in Kuwait 274 have been brought under control.

Foreign Minister Returns From ICO Conference

LD0708125191 London KUNA in Arabic 1138 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Istanbul, 7 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Istanbul today and returned to Kuwait after having led the Kuwaiti delegation to the meeting of the 20th session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Central Bank Governor on Return of Valuables

NC0408194891 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 4 Aug 91

[By Michel Moutot]

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 4 (AFP)—Iraq will Monday start returning nearly half a billion dollars' worth of gold and commemorative coins stolen during its invasion of Kuwait last August, Kuwait's central bank governor said Sunday.

"We are expecting to receive 3,216 gold bars, each one (weighing) 13 kilograms (29 pounds)," Salim 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sabah told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, evaluating the nearly 42 tons of gold at more than 480 million dollars.

"We also expect commemorative coins, silver and gold, worth half a million Kuwaiti dinars (1.5 million dollars), and stolen banknotes which have been cancelled and that we're going to destroy worth 175 million dinars (525 million dollars)," he said.

A United Nations representative, who for the past two and a half months has been brokering the return of the funds, told Kuwaiti authorities that Baghdad had agreed to begin the turnover Monday, Salem said. "(But) it will take time, because we're going to check every bar, check the serial numbers on our lists, weigh and test the purity before approval or disapproval," he added.

The Iraqi Government will turn over the gold and money to a team of 16 central bank officials and eight U.N. representatives in the Saudi city of Arar near the Iraqi-Saudi border, the governor said.

Sabah also hailed his government's decision Saturday to lift all banking restrictions in the emirate, which he said were implemented after the Gulf crisis to curb the possibility of rampant inflation.

Since U.S.-led multinational forces liberated Kuwait in February from seven months of Iraqi occupation, no more than 4,000 dinars (11,600 dollars) could be withdrawn from individual accounts per month. Account holders may henceforth withdraw, deposit or transfer unlimited sums.

"Everyone was expecting to see a huge outflow (of money) from Kuwait. It's very premature to comment on that, because yesterday and today—on the contrary—we had less than the daily average of withdrawals and transfers," Salim said. Banks were ready for any level of cash flow "because we are a free economy," he added.

Salim said he was not worried by the possibility of capital flight through the mass exodus of certain Kuwaiti residents, particularly Palestinians. "They have the right to take it (out)," he argued. "Let them go with the money. They can transfer it to any country they want. "It will definitely affect the liquidity of the banks, but we're supporting (them). Any kind of shortfall of liquidities will be supported. We'll not let this kind of phenomenon affect the banks at all," he said.

Another major financial issue facing the emirate is a government plan to borrow up to 34 billion dollars to cover enormous reconstruction costs after the Gulf war. The governor said a credit institution had been chosen, negotiations were "in progress" and were expected to be

completed in two months. He added that a nine-billion-dollar loan had previously been secured.

Salim also pointed out that Kuwait's financial footing was better than anticipated thanks to a rapid restart of oil exports. Firefighters have so far been able to cap 265 of about 700 oil wells set ablaze by retreating Iraq troops.

As a result, oil exports resumed in late July. The governor said the renewed revenue "will ease our job and the borrowing can be reduced."

Official on Inspection Team's Visit to Mosul

JN0808053291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—The INA science editor has asked the head of the Iraqi team working with the international nuclear inspection team about the latter's visit to Mosul. He answered: The international team made a two-day trip to Mosul during which it visited the uranium purification factory near the city, along with other industrial facilities. The team also visited the Saddam Dam and saw the hydroelectric plant.

Asked about the team's impressions, he said: It is enough here to cite the gist of the statement made by the team's head, David Kay, upon his return to Baghdad after the visit. Kay said that the team visited the purification factory, saw the factory's waste material, and took samples for analysis. The team, Kay added, visited another power generator and found it to be free of nuclear materials and devoted to peaceful purposes.

He [not further identified] said the Iraqi side showed great cooperation with the inspection team, which had prompt access to all required sites and facilities.

UN Expert Describes 'Deadly' Bacteria Experiments

NC0708170791 Paris AFP in English 1646 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 7 (AFP) - Iraq has experimented with deadly bacteria in military research but no biological weapons were found at a site inspected by a a U.N. team looking for such weapons, the group's leader told AFP Wednesday.

David Kelly [name as received] said Iraq had produced crostridium botulinum and anthrax at the Salman Pak site 35 kilometers (22 miles) south of Baghdad.

"We have not found evidence that they (Iraqis) possess biological weapons at the site we visited," he said. The toxin was "extremely lethal and anthrax is dangerous. When inhaled it is lethal," he added.

Kelly is leading a 28-member team of experts which is to leave Iraq on Thursday after a six-day inspection tour.

"They were undertaking research, they were using fermentation and therefore they were able to produce reasonable quantities," Kelly said.

The inspection is part of ceasefire terms set in United Nations Security Council resolution 687 which calls on Baghdad to reveal all its non-conventional arms facilities for destruction by U.N. experts.

"We visited one site, spent five days and looked at Salman Pak," Kelly said, adding that to date it was the only location divulged by Iraqi authorities.

Asked whether officials here were being helpful to the U.N. team, Kelly said they were cooperating fully. He said the next team of biological inspectors would probably visit Iraq in September. "I assume they are going to inspect other sites. There are certainly other sites worthy of inspection."

On Monday, Iraq for the first time admitted the existence of a biological research program for military purposes but said its activities had been suspended late last year.

Envoy Criticizes UN Move To Permit Oil Sales

JN0808075591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 8 Aug (INA)—The Security Council's five permanent member states yesterday approved a draft resolution allowing Iraq to sell $1.6 billion worth of oil over the next six months.

The five countries referred the draft resolution to the Security Council for approval in a general session at the UN's New York headquarters next week.

Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations criticized the decision of the Security Council's permanent states and pointed out that Iraq rejected the draft resolution proposed by France.

He said the decision forces Iraq to deposit its oil revenues in a UN-supervised fund. Iraq can use the money only to obtain relief supplies and pay imposed reparations.

Iraq's permanent envoy concluded by saying that Iraq prefers not to sell its oil if it cannot control the revenues. The draft resolution, he explained, affects Iraq's national sovereignty.

Assembly Condemns French Resolution on Sanctions

JN0708170291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1517 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—The National Assembly affirmed that the French draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council reflects a flagrant intervention in the domestic affairs of a UN member state and a blatant violation of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a statement issued today, the assembly condemned the French draft resolution and said that it expresses the historical grudges harbored against Iraq and the Arab nation. The statement added: This draft resolution aims to starve 18 million Iraqis. It violates human rights and all human values, not to mention contravening the spirit of international law, international norms, and the UN Charter.

The statement explained that the draft resolution contains numerous fallacies, is innacurate, brings to a head

a series of French positions toward the Iraqi Government and people, and embodies French determination to promote colonialist plans and put the region under world domination.

The National Assembly affirmed Iraq's commitment to the UN Charter and to honor all of its international undertakings contained in bilateral or multilateral international and regional treaties and agreements.

The assembly indicated that Iraq had placed all of its nuclear program research facilities and work sites up for UN inspection. It is anxious to honor its pledges to the special commissions and the inspection teams affiliated to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The statement issued by the National Assembly referred to the report compiled by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general, saying: The report prepared by the UN envoy came as a true reflection of the Iraqi people's sufferings due to the economic blockade. This report also speaks of a possible further deterioration in Iraq's economic and social situation.

The Iraqi National Assembly hoped that the old good relations between Iraq and France would produce a positive French stand on both the world scene and at the UN Security Council. Such a position should aim at establishing security and stability in the region on clear foundations of maintaining the territorial integrity of the region's states and noninterference in their domestic affairs, the Assembly concluded.

Speaker Calls U.S. Congress Decision 'Terrorism'

JN0708153091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1257 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih termed the U.S. Congress decision supporting President Bush's use of all means to eliminate Iraq's arms production capabilities as a new channel for international terrorism and a means of applying pressure on people.

In a statement to INA, Sa'di Mahdi Salih added that this decision interferes in Iraq's domestic affairs, is a violation of the sovereignty of a UN member state, and is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter as well as international legitimacy.

The National Assembly speaker said that Iraq condemns this position and asserts that this U.S. conduct is in total disharmony with UN Security Council resolutions. It is also in conflict with the current activities of the authorized UN commissions for which Iraq has been providing all required facilities to enable them to carry out their work of inspecting and examining all the facilities they want to inspect. He noted that the commission reports confirm that Iraq is honoring its commitments to provide all required facilities and that the activities are not being impeded.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that the U.S. Congress decision aims to consecrate a new international reality and revive a traditional colonialist phenomenon in international relations through a U.S. military presence in the region. He added that this very presence poses a threat to world security and peace and constitutes a serious event in international relations, something unprecedented in the history of the world order, the old as well as the new.

Concluding his statement, the National Assembly speaker condemned the decision endorsed by the U.S. Senate on 3 August as well as subsequent similar decisions and statements. He said they constitute new channels for international terrorism and a means of pressuring people and encroaching on their freedom and independence, in violation of the UN Charter and international legitimacy.

Minister on Kurds, Sanctions, Border Operation

TA0608151491 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1430 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul 6 Aug (AA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs who is attending the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting, has said that Baghdad's negotiations with the Kurds are now close to yielding results and said: "A perfect autonomy agreement will be signed."

Replying to reporters' questions, al-Sahhaf said that they have growing support for the elimination of the sanctions against Iraq. He added: "Maybe a decision to lift the sanctions will not be adopted at this conference, but the support is definitely growing."

The Iraqi minister said that his government wants the sanctions to be lifted in stages and that this depends on the UN Security Council sanctions committee. He pointed out that, once the sanctions are lifted, Iraq will begin working with Turkey to reactivate the Karkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline.

Asked to comment on the "implication in the press that Turkey is not interested in the establishment of an autonomous Kurdistan in Iraq," the Iraqi minister replied: "The issue of an autonomous Kurdistan is Iraq's internal affair. We do not accept outside interference in our internal affairs. We do not interfere in your internal affairs. Do not interfere in ours."

Replying to the reporters' question on the cross-border operation al-Sahhaf said: "I am here. I did not receive any official information on the issue. I will not make any comments based on press reports."

Replying to a question on the issue of free elections in Iraq, the minister said: "We are working with a national agenda. Bills on political parties and the freedom of the press have been prepared, and work is being done. I cannot give you a schedule, but the important thing is the principle."

Replying to a question on the Turcoman issue, al-Sahhaf only said: "They have cultural rights within the legal framework."

Official Says No Changes in Leadership Planned

OW0608140891 Beijing XINHUA in English 1348 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, August 6 (XINHUA)—The current Iraqi administration under President Saddam Husayn will not be changed, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs said here today.

In an exclusive interview with XINHUA, Muhammad Sa'id Kazim al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi representative to the current 20th Islamic foreign ministers' meeting, said the present Iraqi Government "will continue to lead the Iraqi people in overcoming the difficulties they are facing."

"We are suffering from shortage of foodstuffs and medical necessities due to the sanctions against Iraq," he said.

"At least certain parts of the sanctions should be lifted, but we are seeing that the United States and some of its allies are imposing more conditions for political reasons. This is unfair, unjust and is completely not in compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

On the U.S.-led Rapid Reaction Force deployed in southeastern Turkey, he said, "as long as they do not commit crimes against Iraq, we have nothing to do with that."

He said the force was not for the protection of Kurds in northern Iraq, as U.S. President George Bush claimed. "This is only a pretext, which they (the Western countries) want to use to cover the schemes," he added.

Bush has said the Rapid Reaction Force is to guard against possible Iraqi crackdown on Kurds in northern Iraq.

The U.S. and its allies have deployed over 5,000 troops in southeastern Turkey. The land troops of the force are stationed at Silopi while the air units and logistics support units are deployed at Incirlik and Batman Air Bases.

Kurdish Radio on Iraqi Reinforcements in Karkuk

NC0708181091 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1658 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] We have received the following from our correspondent in al-Sulaymaniyah: In our previous commentaries, we referred clearly to the tense situation in Karkuk, which has been aggravated further. We said the Fifth Division of the Republican Guard Corps is deployed in Karkuk. It seems that instead of easing the tension and removing its causes, and instead of withdrawing the tanks, armored vehicles, and troops from the city and instructing the repressive services to cease their terrorist actions against the Kurdish citizens, the higher authorities in Baghdad began sending large reinforcements of Republican Guard forces, composed of a complete corps equipped with the most modern types of weapons, to Karkuk to increase tension there and encourage the rancorous elements, which do not want stability to prevail in Iraq, to continue their terrorist and inhuman actions against the citizens.

Our correspondent added: Government forces also began moving from previous positions toward new ones and have increased their provocations and aggressions against the citizens. Iraqi armored vehicles and tanks advanced toward (Tamtamaw) and its surrounding areas and positions of the Kurdistan Front. This constitutes another violation by regime forces of the current truce between the Kurdistan Front and the Iraqi regime.

To end these violations and inhuman actions and to ease the tension in Karkuk, brother Jabir al-Haj 'Ali, representative of the Kurdistan Front Command; and Shaykh Sadar al-Hafid, representative of the Kurdistan Front in al-Sulaymaniyah, left for Karkuk accompanied by the governor of al-Sulaymaniyah and the director of security. We hope the authorities will respond favorably to the Kurdistan Front's sincere efforts not to complicate the situation further and that the Iraqi authorities will show a spirit of responsibility in these sensitive and extremely grave circumstances.

U.S. 5-6 Aug Air Activity Reported to UN

JN0708112191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 7 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have renewed their violation of Iraqi airspace on surveillance and provocation missions.

In a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent UN representative said that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 5 and 6 August totaled 26 sorties, divided into a single three-aircraft flight, 10 two-aircraft flights, and three single flights.

He explained that the U.S. aircraft centered their activity over Mosul, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk, and Tall 'Afar. The aircraft flew at 600 to 850 km per hour at altitudes of 5/1 and 5/6 [numbers as published] km.

Memo to Arab League Protests U.S. Overflights

JN0708174691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (INA)—Iraq has communicated to the Arab League its grave concern over and dissatisfaction with the fact that a U.S. plane has been chosen to conduct surveys in Iraqi airspace.

This came in a memorandum submitted today by Nabil Najm, Iraqi representative to the Arab League, to 'Adnan 'Umran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs. In the memorandum, Najm said that

the chairman of the committee tasked with implementing Section "C" of UN Security Council Resolution 687 notified Iraq on 1 August 1991 that the committee had decided to shoulder its responsibilities with regard to conducting high altitude aerial surveys.

The memorandum pointed out that the committee will use in its mission which will begin in mid-August a single-seat plane that will fly at high altitude. Later, the committee chairman informed the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations that the plane will be American, will fly from Saudi airports, and will carry the UN flag. In the meantime, he affirmed that should Iraq disapprove the flight of this type of plane, warplanes will escort the plane to protect it.

The memorandum pointed out that Iraq, in a reply it sent on 6 August 1991, expressed amazement that a U.S. plane piloted by a U.S. pilot was chosen. In its reply, Iraq also wondered what would stop the plane and its pilot from being Soviet, French, or Indian to prevent the mission from being exploited for hostile purposes that are not in line with the mission assigned by the United Nations.

The memorandum drew the Arab League Secretariat's attention to the fact that U.S. planes have been surveying Iraqi territories for several months and have photographed every stone in these territories. It noted that the planes the United Nations intends to use for this aggressive and combative act will certainly not be flying at altitudes higher than the satellites that continuously spy on Iraq.

It affirmed that although the pretexts and excuses which covered up the 30-nation aggression on Iraq no longer hold, what calls for denunciation is that Saudi Arabia has allowed the United States to use its territories and bases to launch aggressive military operations on Iraq under UN cover. This confirms that the Saudi Government has transformed the holy territories into bases of continuous aggression against the Arab countries.

The memorandum concludes: Since the situation proceeded from a resolution issued by the United Nations, and despite its conviction about its correct stand and valid questions, Iraq will, so as to thwart every bad intention, not hamper the surveillance flights that will be carried out. Iraq also affirms that this operation should be supported officially and in writing by the UN secretary general or the president of the Security Council.

Kurdistan Leader Cited on European Tour

PM0208112691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Jul 91 p 5

[Zuhayr Qusaybati report: "Talabani Tells AL-HAYAH: West's Insistence on Removing Saddam is Interference in Iraq's Internal Affairs"]

[Text] London—Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and joint leader of the Kurdistan Front, has ruled out another military confrontation between the Kurds and the Iraqi Army. He expects a long period of neither war nor peace if the present negotiations between Baghdad and the Front fail. In an exclusive interview with AL-HAYAH he described the West's insistence on removing Saddam as "interference in Iraq's internal affairs."

Talabani was expected to leave London yesterday for Paris after meetings with senior British officials—first and foremost, Prime Minister John Major, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg, and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The day before yesterday he met with Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labor Party.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Talabani emphasized that he had proposed to Major the idea of establishing a bank for rebuilding and developing Iraqi Kurdistan and that Major promised to back it and renewed his commitment to guaranteeing the Kurds' security.

Asked whether his European tour—which also takes in Bonn, Amsterdam, and Geneva—complicates the current negotiations in Baghdad, where the Kurdish delegation is headed by Mas'ud Barzani, joint leader of the Kurdistan Front, Talabani said: "Actually it facilitates it. My tour is not directed against the Iraqi Government." He specified two issues which he is raising in his meetings with European officials: "The first issue is the conditions of some 600,000 Kurdish refugees crowded along the Iraqi-Iranian borders, in addition to those still in Iran. We want to resolve the refugees issue. The other issue is our call to set up a bank for rebuilding and developing Kurdistan with funds collected from government and charitable establishments. Prime Minister John Major agreed to my proposal."

And I am hoping for support from the international community in order to make the negotiations between the Kurds and the Iraqi Government a success. He emphasized that the "international position can facilitate the task of dialogue with Baghdad."

Asked whether he regarded Barzani's stances—which seem more flexible than his stances on the conditions of the agreement with Baghdad—as a sign of disagreement, he replied: "We agree with Barzani on the basis for a decision issued unanimously by the Kurdistan Front, and he is authorized to sign the final agreement with Baghdad if it realizes the minimum Kurdish demands."

Asked whether he regards a resumption of military conflict between Kurdish fighters (Peshmerga) and the Iraqi Army as a possibility in the event of the failure of the negotiations, which have been going on for a long time, he ruled it out, citing another possibility, namely that "the state of neither war nor peace could continue for a long time." He refused to disclose what course the negotiations are taking.

He was also asked whether he still supports the insistence of the West—and especially U.S. President George

Bush—on maintaining international sanctions against Iraq as long as Saddam Husayn is in power, he said: "The Iraqi people should be given the opportunity to choose their own leadership since it is their business to replace it. We also call for food supplies to the Iraqis to be permitted, provided that food is distributed among everyone in northern, central, and southern Iraq. We are in favor of sanctions being linked to the implementation of a democratic development in Iraq. We regard the insistence on removing Saddam as interference in that country's internal affairs." He repeated a remark he made recently in Istanbul, emphasizing that "the Americans are looking for an excuse to interfere in Iraq again."

Asked whether the Kurdistan Front was continuing coordination with the other Iraqi opposition parties and organizations, Talabani said: Of course. And we are member of the Joint Action Committee which convenes daily meetings.

The committee held an expanded meeting in Damascus to study the Front-Baghdad negotiations opposed by most parties.

Talabani emphasized that the Kurds in Iraq are like the Kurds in Turkey, Syria, and Iran. "They are not enjoying their political and national rights. The only difference is that we have suffered a war of annihilation and mass evacuation in Iraq."

He did not rule out the possibility that he may visit one or two Middle Eastern capitals before returning to Kurdistan.

Yesterday he held a press conference in the House of Commons after his meeting with Major, which was also attended by Hogg. He announced his wish to visit Washington and said that he would be meeting in Paris with Prime Minister Edith Cresson and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

He refused to talk about the course of the negotiations with the Iraqi Government. He just said that they were continuing. Asked whether he trusted the Iraqi president he replied: "It is not a question of trust... This is a reality with which we must deal." He supported the idea of keeping the rapid reaction force (Poised Hammer) in southern Turkey "until the democratic change is carried out in Iraq. We are in favor of linking the (international) sanctions to democracy and Iraqi human rights, step by step."

Asked by AL-HAYAH whether his present tour can be regarded as a means of putting pressure on Baghdad, he replied: Perhaps yes, in order to speed up the negotiations. He demanded an end to the Ba'th Party's domination of political life in Iraq and called for "free elections monitored by the United Nations and Amnesty International." He stressed that "democracy is the only solution to all the Iraqis' problems, and its guarantee is a new constitution."

He announced that he had thanked Major for his personal efforts and "his government's sympathy with the Kurdish cause," that he proposed to him the idea of a bank for rebuilding and developing Kurdistan, and that he urged him to increase aid to Kurdish refugees who are still without shelter in northern Iraq and to set up new camps for them.

He added that the Kurdish people were not satisfied with the multinational forces' withdrawal from northern Iraq and that "nevertheless we are satisfied with the West's pledge to intervene again if we are exposed to an Iraqi attack." Asked whether he discussed with Major the subject of the rapid reaction force stationed in Turkish Silopi near the Iraqi border, he replied: "I believe that it will help guarantee the Kurds' security, and I am satisfied with the results of the meeting."

He pointed out that some 400,000 refugees from the Karkuk area are still crowded along the Iraqi-Iranian borders. He attacked the "policy of Arabizing Karkuk, Kurdistan's historic city, as the Iraqi authorities have settled 10,000 Arab families there. Previously the rising Kurds and Turkomans formed the majority, then tens of thousands of Kurds were forced to leave the city." He emphasized the Front's adherence to its relations with the other Iraqi opposition parties, even if an agreement is reached with Baghdad. He pointed out that "Kurdistan is divided, and each part has its own characteristics. We do not want to interfere in the other parts, since it is up to them to decide their own means of struggle."

Iranian Paper Interviews SAIRI Leader

NC0208160091 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Jul 91 pp 3, 16

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Baqir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] [RESALAT] What is the situation in the marshlands in southern Iraq?

[Hakim] In a bid to annihiliate the many citizens who sought shelter in the marshlands after the recent events in the country, the regime has launched a multipronged attack against them. This onslaught was preceded by the economic embargo the regime imposed against the region, which turned an already bad situation into something truly serious and very worrying. The heat and widespread malnutrition among young and old has meant a rising toll of victims.

[RESALAT] The regime is waiting for an opportunity to attack. Do you believe the embargo imposed on southern Iraq is a plot to exterminate the Shiites?

[Hakim] The ruling system in Iraq is the enemy of all people, be they Shiite or Sunni, and wants to annihilate them so that nothing will stand in its way. The regime is pursuing a program to gradually exterminate the Shiites.

and it sacrifices more people for the sake of its own officials and members every moment. The Kurds have also been the victims of these attacks, of course, but as Shiites form the majority of the Iraqi people, we believe that most of the crimes and savagery are aimed against them.

[RESALAT] What is the situation in Iraq's cities after the months-long suppression of the uprising?

[Hakim] The cities that were attacked were completely devastated and have become ghost towns. A state of emergency is in effect in al-Najaf, Karbala', and other cities, and the administrative departments are mostly manned by military personnel or the Ba'thist regime's security forces.

To thwart any kind of defensive operation by the Shiites and the people, the repressive forces constantly patrol the cities and special military units have been stationed in them as well. Thus, most people are living outside the cities, while those who remain inside live in constant fear.

[RESALAT] Please tell us about the security measures that have been taken in al-Najaf and the siege around the residence of His Eminence Ayatollah Kho'i.

[Hakim] His Eminence Ayatollah Kho'i remains under house arrest and anyone leaving the house is subjected to intensive interrogation. Only women are allowed to leave the house.

[RESALAT] The month of Muharram is approaching. What activities have been planned in the cities, and how will the regime react?

[Hakim] The Baghdad regime has banned all Husayni observances [Shiite religious ceremony] throughout the country for the last 15 years, and each year it carries out new acts of repression against the Husayni groups. In 1949 the ruling regime dispersed and arrested mourners at ceremonies for Imam Husayn (peace be upon him). The following year, the regime also cracked down on mourners, arresting tens of thousands and sentencing many to life imprisonment or execution. Husayni commemorations have been banned ever since. This ban remains in effect, but those who love the sanctity and chastity of the members of the sacred household (peace be upon them) have not passively accepted this. Despite many obstacles, they have kept the name of Husayn (peace be upon him) alive and have held mourning ceremonies every year so that this uprising will not be forgotten.

In view of the current conditions in Iraq and the chaos prevailing within the regime, we expect that savage measures will be taken against the mourners of Husayn (peace be upon him) this year as well. We are aware that the regime has set up automatic machine gun positions on the roofs of major buildings in the cities, including al-Najaf and Karbala', and the repressive forces are prepared to confront any move by the people. The regime has sent circulars to all executive, military, and law enforcement departments announcing a state of alert.

Iraq's Muslim people are not intimidated by these measures, however, and they will mourn Husayn (peace be upon him) with all due ceremony. In the not too distant future, these ceremonies will take place in public and the memory of the martyrs of Karbala' will always be kept alive.

[RESALAT] It has been reported that Saddam has sent certain people to religious ceremonies disguised as clerics, and that they sing his praises at these ceremonies. Does Your Excellency have any information on this?

[Hakim] After all the atrocities Saddam committed, including his attacks on the holy places and his shameless oppression of the people, it will do no good to try to sing his praises. The people of Iraq have awakened and they will not be misled by attempts to deceive them.

Some of the people who have been sent to the cities disguised as clerics to carry out propaganda and mingle with the people are the very same ones who participated in these crimes. They will not deceive the people.

[RESALAT] What kind of actions have the dissidents taken?

[Hakim] At the beginning, the dissidents sought to gain control of the cities, but the uprising gradually assumed a more military shape as the people obtained weapons and embarked on widespread military operations. Most of their activity can be divided into two categories:

1. Political and propagandistic moves such as writing slogans, distributing statements, and sending letters to members of the military inviting them to join the people. This activity, which has been unceasing, sowed fear among the criminals and revealed the truth to some ignorant or misled people.

2. Military operations to liberate the cities for a time so that the leading criminals can be eliminated. These operations were also intended to boost the morale of the Iraqi people.

[RESALAT] What have been the results of the visits some SAIRI delegations paid to certain regional and European countries?

[Hakim] The delegations' visits were intended to achieve the following objectives:

1. Expose the wretched plight of the Iraqi people and what is happening in the country.

2. Clarify Iraq's political and military situation and the people's views of the regime.

3. Explain SAIRI's view on Iraq's future.

In general, our overall objective can be summed up as the vindication of the political, cultural, and religious rights of all oppressed groups and tribes in Iraq.

These trips were a great success, and important agreements were reached between the delegates and various countries' leaders.

Talks were also held with private organizations, especially in the field of strategic research, to clarify our views. The delegations also conferred with some women's rights organizations, and some valuable exchanges of views took place.

We also held other meetings on the ministerial level and even higher, including one with the Saudi heir apparent, and spoke to various newspapers and international news agencies. We met with members of the British, Italian, and French parliaments to explain the views of the dissidents and the Shiites on various issues, and our views were conveyed to these countries' leaderships.

As I just mentioned, we reached many agreements during these trips. In many cases, public opinion tilted in our favor and some ambiguities were removed.

[RESALAT] How does your excellency see Iraq's future in view of the current international and regional developments?

[Hakim] The war between right and wrong is an eternal one, and our war with the United States and Saddam is one such battle. The United States wishes to control Iraq's destiny, but our people are determined to safeguard their independence, prestige, and generosity and will remain so.

The United States wants to engineer a coup to change the government in Iraq and wants to hand over power to someone just like Saddam. It also wants to safeguard its own interests, however, and therefore it continues to protect Saddam and his administration and does not hesitate to extend whatever support is needed.

Nevertheless, the proud and oppressed Iraqi nation will only accept a government of the people and by the people. What is absolutely essential here, and something to which our brothers must give due attention, is selflessness and self-sacrifice. Only in this way can we attain our objectives.

The country has reached a high level of popular awareness, and the people have developed heroism and selflessness. They are determined to attain their lofty objectives without hesitating to offer any kind of sacrifice. God willing, the verse "If ye will aid (the cause of) God, He will aid you..." will be realized. Victory is near and the Almighty is the succorer and supporter of the oppressed and tyrannized nation.

[RESALAT] Do you believe Iraq's refusal to allow the UN team to inspect its nuclear and chemical installations and resources will be used by the United States to bring about the military coup you mentioned?

[Hakim] Yes, the United States may use this to try to stage a coup. I would also like to add that Saddam has discovered certain areas where he can conceal his chemical weapons and long-range missiles, and the UN investigation team may not have access to them or even be able to find them.

[RESALAT] Disarmament is now the focus of great international attention. What are your views on this matter?

[Hakim] We believe that the danger threatening the region results from the presence of Saddam and his administration, not the existence of weapons. The real danger emanates not from the weapons themselves, but from those who possess them and misuse them to annihilate people and devastate countries.

We believe that if the international community truly wants security, then Saddam and other dictators, the sources of all the darkness and turmoil, must be removed from the region and the world.

[RESALAT] What did they Shiites hope to achieve through their uprising? Have recent developments affected these goals?

[Hakim] The people are pursuing clear and definite objectives in their uprising, and there has been no retreat, as they believe in these objectives wholeheartedly. These objectives can be summarized as follows:

A. The people of Iraq want the dictatorship to be toppled and replaced with a government based on popular will.

B. They believe that they should have a role in government.

C. They must be given true freedom in its fullest sense and the rights that have been taken from them must be restored.

D. As the majority of the people are Muslims and want Islam and the Muslims to be respected, there must not be the slightest disrespect to Islamic culture, institutions, and rites.

Many and great steps have already been taken along this path, and all the people have joined hands to struggle for these objectives.

[RESALAT] As you are aware, the Kurdish leaders have held talks with the leaders of the Baghdad regime. What do you think of these talks? Do you welcome them?

[Hakim] We have stressed repeatedly that these talks were not just and did not benefit the people of Iraq or the Kurds. The Kurds from the Kurdistan Front who agreed to these talks either were deceived by the administration or proved unable to continue the holy war and struggle because they had lived a life of carnal indulgence. In fact, some Kurds have also expressed displeasure over these talks. The Kurds should not forget that Saddam has not

changed and he will never honor his promises. In fact, the talks mean nothing to him.

[RESALAT] Have you had any contacts or talks with the Kurdish leaders? If so, what did you discuss and what results were achieved?

[Hakim] In the past, we acted in complete coordination and cohesion with the leaders of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front and we vowed to remain united against Saddam. After they entered into talks with the leaders in Baghdad, this obviously changed. We asked them to return to the united ranks of the dissidents and to halt their talks with the Baghdad leaders.

[RESALAT] What do you want the United Nations and the international community to do?

[Hakim] We have the following expectations from the United Nations and the international community:

1. The United Nations must bear its full responsibility by supporting the people of Iraq against the operations the administration is carrying out to annihilate them and it must persuade Iraq to implement Resolution 688 unconditionally.

2. We want Saddam to be tried as a war criminal and for crimes against humanity. If the international community wishes, it can find him guilty and he would be forced to leave the international scene, thereby allowing tranquillity and security to return to the region and the world.

3. We want the United Nations to respect this uprising, this popular movement, in Iraq and to understand that due regard for this people and their movement will be to their and our benefit.

Al-Daw'ah Party Warns Rafsanjani on Refugees

NC0808122091 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] The Iraqi Islamic al-Da'wah Party has accused "government departments in Iran of discriminating between Iraqis living in Iran and Iranian citizens." The party called on Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to alleviate the suffering of the "Iraqis who are living in suffocating conditions."

The message, which was distributed in Beirut yesterday, notes that the party's cadres are "observing with great regret and pain the deteriorating situation of the Iraqis who sought shelter in the Islamic Republic, leaving their property and families at the mercy of the oppressive Saddamist regime."

The message says that despite "the difficult conditions they faced in Iran during the war years, the Iraqis stood by their brothers, made every conceivable sacrifice, and gave up their lives in defense of justice. They hoped that the end of the war and the removal of many problems would alter the behavior of certain official and administrative quarters which did not abide by the slogans and principles of the revolution."

The message adds that the Iraqis living in Iran were disappointed when the way they were treated did not change following the acceptance of Resolution 598. "In fact, even more steps were taken against them, including taking away the ration books people living in Iran need to meet their basic food needs."

The message notes that this measure has forced the Iraqis to buy their food on the black market at prices up to 40 times higher than those in stores. The message asserts that this deterioration of living standards may "prompt them to change their allegiance."

The message urges Rafsanjani personally to "guarantee living standards for Iraqis in Iran similar to those of Iranian citizens, because it is a primary duty of the Islamic government to meet the basic needs of Muslims."

UN Rights Group Urged To Expell Saddam's Brother

NC0708053691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The Voice of the Iraqi Opposition has sent an open letter to the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission asking him, in the name of the Iraqi people, to purge the ranks of this organization by expelling the criminal butcher Barzan al-Tikriti, brother of tyrant Saddam Husayn. In the letter, our radio described criminal Barzan al-Tikriti's status as Iraq's representative on this body as a disgrace to it and a display of contempt for the feelings of the Iraqis and the values of all mankind.

Our radio noted that Barzan al-Tikriti's membership constitutes a gross irony: How can a butcher defend his victim and how can an organization known for opposing all forms of terrorism embrace this man, a well-known terrorist who has unjustly murdered Iraqis to satisfy his barbaric lust?

The Voice of the Iraqi Opposition radio indicated that the commission would be perfectly justified in expelling criminal butcher Barzan al-Tikriti, as his membership violates the commission's principles and undermines its integrity.

Defense Ministry Communique on Hostage Release

TA0808110591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1044 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Dani Nave, the defense minister's spokesman, has issued a communique stating that Israel welcomes the release of the British hostage and sends warm wishes to him and his family. The Israeli Government would like to view the release of additional hostages as the beginning of an accelerated process which will ultimately lead to the release of all the prisoners and hostages being held by various elements in Lebanon.

The Israeli Government will continue to make every possible effort to bring about the release of all the hostages, including the Israeli POW's and MIA's. Israel reiterates its call on all the elements holding the Israeli POW's to allow the Red Cross access to them or produce evidence of their whereabouts. Consequently, Israel would be prepared to conduct negotiations on the release of Lebanese detainees held by Israel in exchange for the Israeli POW's and MIA's.

Ben-Aharon on Talks With U.S. Officials

TA0708155491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Text] [Friedman] The main administrative issue still pending is the question of Palestinian representation. Could an Israeli-U.S. understanding on the issue already be reached tonight, upon the beginning of the talks with the U.S. officials in Jerusalem?

[Ben-Aharon] No, not at all. The question of Palestinian representation has not yet been decided. Although everybody—that is, the Arab side and the United States—is dealing with it, we have not yet discerned any signs that the issue has been settled.

[Friedman] The agreement between Baker and the Israeli negotiating team headed by Yitzhaq Shamir refers to the opening session of the conference, with the Americans stressing that this will not constitute a precedent vis-a-vis the following stages of the negotiations. Could we yet see inhabitants of East Jerusalem in the Palestinian delegation in the following stages?

[Ben-Aharon] We have not discussed the following stages with the Americans, and that is why I cannot answer your question. As for the first stage, the prime minister has made unequivocally clear to Secretary Baker that we will object to the presence of an Arab from East Jerusalem.

[Mardor] The work on the memorandum of understanding is seen as being of a technical nature. Nevertheless, where do you foresee difficulties in the course of the work which, as we hear, will last several weeks?

[Ben-Aharon] We do not foresee work on the memorandum of understanding lasting several weeks. The difficulties will center on the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation because, as has been reported in the media, Palestinian and other Arab elements want to make sure that Arabs of East Jerusalem participate in the conference. As we have been hearing from PLO spokesmen, an effort would seem to be under way to give the PLO some toehold in the process. We persist in our opposition to all those points, and we hope the United States, too, will not renege on its position.

[Mardor] Do you not foresee any difficulties on other points? Is everything else cut and dried?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I would not say that either. We are only starting our talks with the U.S. team which arrived today to discuss these understandings. These will later be anchored in a memorandum of understanding or a similar document. Only when these discussions are over will we know that at least we and the United States see eye to eye with regard to the technical aspects of the conference and all the promises concerning the peace process made by the United States in the past.

[Friedman] I would like to ask you about the misunderstandings that remain to be settled between Israel and the United States. There are quite a few of those, such as the interpretation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The United States, just like Syria and the other Arabs, believes the resolution refers to land for peace. Will Israel state in the memorandum of understanding, as Yitzhaq Shamir told Tehiya members, that the moment the Syrian delegate raises such a demand Israel will leave the negotiating table?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, I do not want to indulge in hypotheses. Our position on Resolution 242 has been explained to the secretary of state on several occasions. He has accepted the proposal that whenever it officially mentions this resolution, the United States will say that it recognizes the fact that it has various interpretations and that, therefore, the application of this resolution to the territorial issue is subject to negotiation.

[Friedman] Will the ideas being discussed by the United States and Syria—demilitarizing the Golan Heights once the area has been returned to Syrian sovereignty or deploying U.S. police forces in the evacuated areas—be in any way reflected in the memorandum of understanding?

[Ben-Aharon] No, you are going too fast. We will not be discussing the territorial issue. After all, it is clear to all that issues pertaining to territory will be subject to negotiation by the two sides only and that nobody else should touch it. The Arabs tried to lure the United States

into an interpretation that is sympathetic to their position, but at one point the United States stopped and said: True, we believe that Resolution 242 applies to all areas but, beyond that, a decision on the territorial issue and the borders is subject to negotiations between the sides.

[Mardor] Will you be touching upon the issue of the settlements? Do you expect the Americans to raise this issue?

[Ben-Aharon] The issue has been covered on more than one occasion in talks and messages between the Israeli and U.S. heads of state. We will not be discussing it because, as is known, we will be deliberating on the conference and the negotiations and everything pertaining to their technical aspect.

[Friedman] But since then Eshkolot has been turned into a civilian settlement and we are being told that Har Manoah will soon follow suit. Are there any more settlements in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza, and the Golan Heights awaiting civilianization?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not think this issue calls for special attention. We settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el; longstanding government decisions are occasionally being implemented. I think the world is getting used to the idea that Israel settles all over, including Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Friedman] Will any more settlements be civilianized by October, when the conference is due to start?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know. I say that settlement is an ongoing activity that is unrelated to the date one conference or another is due convene.

[Friedman] Mr. Ben-Aharon, what should we wish you on the eve of the talks with the U.S. officials?

[Ben-Aharon] Success to all of us.

[Friedman] All right, we do. Thank you very much.

Tehiya To Remain in Coalition Until Peace Talks

TA0808043491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The central committee of the right-wing Tehiya Party resolved last night that the party should not leave the government immediately, but only when the regional conference convenes or when peace negotiations begin. The decision represents a victory for the relatively cautious line of the party chairman, Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman. A motion by Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni to leave the government immediately was defeated. [passage omitted]

Likud Ministers on Sharon Stand in Cabinet

TA0508054191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Senior Likud ministers have said that the prime minister will not fire Minister Ari'el Sharon despite his blunt criticism of the government and the way it functioned during the negotiations. The prime minister will make do with the harsh remarks he used in his reply to Sharon in yesterday's cabinet session.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that during yesterday's cabinet session, several ministers called on Sharon to share collective responsibility and asked him why he is a member of a government he believes is leading to war.

A senior Likud minister told our correspondent that there is some political benefit in the fact that a senior Likud minister does not support the government's policy.

Minister Roni Milo believes that if the problems in the cabinet continue, the prime minister will have to take action to resolve them. The cabinet must be united, and its resolutions must be binding on all its members. A cabinet member cannot continue to attack it and remain a member. Minister Milo said that the key question is whether the government can continue to function and deal with such substantial issues while under attack from inside. As for Sharon's allegations, Milo said that they do not coincide with reality and that, in fact, all of Israel's demands have been accepted.

Poll—Strength of Right-Wing Parties Growing

TA3107130891 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Jul 91 p A6

[Text] If elections for the Knesset were held today, the results would show a significant rise in the power of the small right-wing parties—Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—and a drop in support for the Likud and for the Labor Party. This is shown by a poll conducted by the Pori Institute, a public opinion polling agency.

The results of the poll indicate a rise of almost four percent for the small right-wing parties, from the 7 percent of votes they received in the 12th Knesset elections, to 10.9 percent today.

The Likud would lose two percent of its support and drop from 31.1 percent of the votes to 29.1 percent. The Labor Party would lose 2.7 percent of its votes, dropping from 30 percent to 27.3 percent of the total vote.

The small left-wing parties—the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], Shinuy, and MAPAM [United Workers Party]—would also increase their clout, but only by approximately 1 percent, from 8.5 percent in the last elections to 9.4 percent today, which is less than the increase for the small parties on the right.

The religious parties are expected to maintain their strength, and even to increase it by about 0.5 percent—from 14.6 percent to 15.1 percent of the vote.

The Pori poll questioned a representative sample of 1,200 men and women eligible to vote throughout the country. They were interviewed personally in strict confidence.

Arens' Approval of New Settlement Analyzed

TA0708134091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 91 p B1

[Editorial: "Bowing to the Settlers"]

[Text] The prime minister and the foreign and defense ministers know that the U.S. Administration views the settlement enterprise cultivated by Israel as an obstacle to peace. Nevertheless, they have rejected every appeal from President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to give it up. The defense minister seems to think that the establishment of a new settlement two days after the Israeli Government said yes to the United States is the right thing to do. Otherwise, it is incomprehensible why he chose these very days to allow Amana [Gush Emunim settlement body] to send a settling nucleus as a vanguard to a certain spot between al-Zahiriyah and Kibbutz Lahav.

The official sources would like to present this operation as the implementation of a resolution adopted in principle in 1983, according to which a Nahal Brigade outpost called Eshkolot, set up a year earlier, is to be "civilianized." The defense minister's settlement adviser's statement saying that it has been decided to implement that civilianization resolution can fool no one.

If a resolution to civilianize a Nahal outpost was not implemented over eight years, it must mean that those in authority decided the site in southern Mount Hermon was unfit for permanent settlement. As a matter of fact, even the Nahal Command was unsuccessful in keeping the outpost; the place was abandoned 18 months ago, and only a bunch of soldiers stayed behind to guard the buildings and property.

There can be no other conclusion but that the defense minister surrendered—willingly, one may assume—to the Gush Emunim pressure. All the talk about "civilianization" is pointless; what we have here is a new settlement, which joined its predecessors, through which the defense minister signals to the United States that Israel does not want peace in return for territories.

The defense minister's acts in Hebron were in the same spirit. Eight years ago, in the wake of an appeal by an Arab bus company from Hebron, the High Court issued an interim order forbidding the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] (which had seized the lands of the city's central bus station in reaction to the murder of a Jew) to cause damage to the station and/or give the title to the seized land to another party. And here comes the state attorney's office advising the High Court on behalf of the defense minister that due to renovation works in Bet Romano [in Qiryat Arba'], Israeli citizens "may soon be transferred to temporary quarters in temporary buildings in plot (number of the station area) registered in the ownership of Rabbi Shneerson."

This means that 160 yeshiva students will live in mobile homes on land the IDF had seized for security purposes only. And, although the defense minister prudently instructed the state attorney's office to advise the judiciary that there was no intention, God forbid, of violating the interim order and that this was merely a temporary move—why, of all the facts, did the state attorney's office emphasize that the temporary quarters would be set up on a portion of the station's land which is owned by a Jew or his heirs?

Those who remember the sneaky methods employed since 1967 to enable "the return to Hebron" cannot but give credence to the Arab company's claim that the real design is to create territorial continuity with another district, in which Jews have lived since the city's occupation by the Army.

Moshe Arens is assisting Gush Emunim and the Hebron settlers. Such gestures may enhance their loyalty to the present government, but they are also liable to undermine the international trust in the sincerity of Israel's desire to make a contribution to promoting the peace process by attending the regional conference.

Official, Palestinian Discuss Camps Overcrowding

TA0208145091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Aug 91 p A5

[Text] Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of activities in the territories, conferred last Tuesday [30 July] with a prominent Fatah activist in the West Bank to discuss the situation in the refugee camps and the political process in the region.

The meeting was held in the Civil Administration offices in Bet El. 'Adnan Damiri, a resident of Tulkarm and a journalist working for the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR, recently stepped into the limelight when he wrote a series of articles reassessing the intifadah and emphasizing the negative actions of the masked men.

Damiri is known in the West Bank as a prominent Fatah activist. He has been held in administrative detention four times, each time for six months, and has even served six years in an Israeli jail after being convicted of belonging to Fatah. For a long time he served as chairman of the student council of al-Najah University in Nabulus.

Damiri said Gen. Rothschild raised the situation of the West bank refugee camps in the wake of Damiri's article in which he proposed ways to solve the problem of overcrowding. Damiri proposed to build high rises,

similar to the apartment houses in Israel, with the approval of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency], which is in charge of the refugee camps.

According to Damiri, Gen. Rothschild told him that if the refugees submitted a request, the Civil Administration would be willing to consider the possibility of giving them land outside the refugee camps so that they may build on it and thus ease the crowded conditions. Damiri objected to the idea, which has been implemented in several locations in the Gaza Strip. In his opinion, the crowded conditions should be solved inside rather than outside the refugee camps. "Razing the camps would be tantamount to eliminating the last piece of evidence about the refugee problem," Damiri said.

Referring to the political process, Damiri told Gen. Rothschild that the enemy cannot demand with whom to negotiate on the other side. Damiri said: "If we, Palestinians, were to decide who to negotiate with on the Israeli side we would choose Abie Nathan [Israeli peace activist who recently staged a hunger strike to protest the law banning meetings with the PLO]."

Arab Adviser Appeals on Islamic Press Attacks

TA0708134391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister's Arab affairs adviser has called on the Islamic Movement leaders to influence the editors of their papers to soften their style somewhat. In his appeal, Dr. Alexander Bligh says that their style hurts the Jews' feelings and the good relations that have developed between the two nations since the end of the Gulf war. Yo'el Dar reports:

The appeal follows a renewal of the offensive style of the Islamic Movement organs which attack Israeli leaders, the Jews, and Zionism. The writers draw no distinction between the left and the right. The foundation of the Jewish state was inspired by imperialism and built on the dismembered limbs of the Palestinian people who were exiled and killed, as one article put it. The crime of 'Ami Popper [who shot seven Arabs at the Rishon Leziyyon junction in May 1990] is described as another link in the series of planned massacres begun in 1948 and shows, so it was written, that the ideological, racist motive has taken root in the Jews' soul. The news editors refrain from using the Hebrew names of the Jewish towns in Israel: Rishon Leziyyon, for instance, is called 'Ayn Qar'un.

The prime minister's Arab affairs adviser made it clear that the expressions used by the editors and reporters upset the relaxed atmosphere that has prevailed in relations between Jews and Arabs since the conclusion of the Gulf war. Incidentally, at the beginning of 1991 one of the Islamic Movement's organs, SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYA, was closed for three months on order of the Interior Ministry.

Spiritual Leaders Support Peace Conference

TA0208114491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by Hayim Shapiro]

[Excerpt] Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, the spiritual mentor of Degel Hatora and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and former Sephardi chief rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, head of the SHAS Council of Tora Sages, yesterday made public their support for an international conference.

The stand may be considered in keeping with their "non-messianic" view of Judaism.

Rabbi Efrayim Tzemel, who is active in Haredi [ultraorthodox] circles and close to the two rabbinical luminaries, told THE JERUSALEM POST their promotion of the peace process was in keeping with two principles: the utmost sanctity of human life, and the need to avoid rousing the anger of the nations of the world. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Ratifies Treaty on Prohibition of Torture

TA0508104891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 91 p 12

[Report by Robert Makovsky]

[Text] The cabinet yesterday ratified the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Torture, a cabinet level official said.

According to Robbie Sabel, legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry, the torture treaty is the first of a few international human rights treaties that Israel is expected to sign. Israel will shortly become a signatory of other UN treaties in the political and social sphere, he said.

"In the past," Sabel explained, "we did not sign these treaties because we felt we would not be treated fairly by international panels which monitor the work of signatories. However, our recent experience with these panels has been okay."

Some human rights groups have pointed to Israel's refusal to sign international treaties as an illustration of disinterest in protecting civil rights of Palestinians.

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said that yesterday's decision followed consultation between the Defense, Justice, and Foreign ministries.

King Husayn Interviewed on Peace in Region

JN0708183891 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1800 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Interview with King Husayn by Rami Khuri carried within a "special edition" of the weekly "Encounter" talk show; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Good evening, welcome to this special edition of Encounter. It is an honor tonight to have as our guest His Majesty King Husayn. Your Majesty, thank you for being with us, and we welcome you to Encounter.

[Husayn] Thank you very much indeed, Rami. It is a pleasure for me, and I am very happy indeed to have this chance to start this kind of program with you.

[Khuri] Thank you very much. Your Majesty, this weekend marks 38 years of your assumption of your constitutional duties as monarch. It also comes at a moment of potential hope and possible major change in the Middle East. You have said in recent interviews that this is a moment of great hope and possibly the last chance for peace. Why do you say this is the last chance for peace?

[Husayn] Well certainly it may be the last chance as far as I am concerned, sir. I mean, after all these years that have passed of striving to get this chronic problem resolved, I believe that the degree of frustration, the degree of despair, the degree of loss of hope, the degree of extremism, born of a people denied all rights over so long, could be disastrous beyond this point unless of course we move in the direction of resolving the problem. And I think that there are many encouraging signs that were not there before. So it is the last chance in that sense, and there are also the physical aspects of the needs of all concerned in the context of peace that could be addressed.

[Khuri, interrupting] You're talking of....

[Husayn, continuing] Drainage of water and something else, economic development, and so forth, but without that, it is a downhill slide for everybody.

[Khuri] The Gulf crisis that we recently experienced was a moment when powerful emotions were unleashed on all sides within the Arab world, in Israel, in the United States, in Europe. How do you explain this intensity of emotions that we were engulfed in all around us? You mentioned, a moment ago, frustration and despair. Is this what it was?

[Husayn] I believe that was part of it. Of course, if we take the outside world, I believe in the wake of the changes that occurred and the great imbalance that resulted in a way and the supremacy of the United States in terms of its power and position, the lack of a need for American military major contribution in protecting Europe, for example, which is a different state of affairs, and so on, the fact that the world was moving into an era where economic developments was really going to be the major issue. All relied on oil.

So lots of factors that affected the outside world regarding the area and the region, its location, as far as we were concerned I think, there were peace worries and concerns that we were moving to possibly being broken up and divided amongst each other and falling away instead of moving ahead.

[Khuri] You mean within the Arab world or within....

[Husayn, interrupting] Within the Arab world itself. And also the fact that although all of us are committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, and even Iraq was advocating that no Arab state should ever use force against another Arab state, what happened was a shock, regardless of what the causes were. However, the fact that here you had a situation that attracted immediately the attention of the world and let it move to try to address it. We were trying to address it by reversing the process peacefully and within the Arab context. Yet, the Palestinian problem, the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of it, the Arab-Israeli dimension of it, has been with us for so long without necessarily receiving the same attention until then. All these factors, I think, heightened the emotions at the time.

[Khuri] You've been in touch with statesmen, stateswomen, all around of the world, leaders of countries. Do you sense now, almost a year after the beginning of the crisis last August, do you sense that the world appreciates the deeper underlying causes that led to this emotional outburst on this extremism that governed the region during the crisis?

[Husayn] I believe this to be a fact, and from what I have seen during the very recent past, I was in touch with many throughout the world, but even my recent visits to Europe, I believe that—let's take Jordan for example. It grew in stature beyond its physical size and not only because of its stance on the Gulf situation and its principles which it defended and its commitment to peace and its concern for the human suffering and the human losses and the material losses, as well as even the environment, and to try to resolve this problem at the least possible cost, but also because of democracy, which is a first in all the recent developments, even ahead of some of the major powers that have chosen this way. So I don't think that if people have misperceptions of where Jordan stood, those would last. And I am sure that eventually the truth comes out, and despite everything else, that will happen and it will grow. And I think that Jordan has a great role to play for a better future in this region as well as in the world.

[Khuri] The most interesting thing, I think, that happened after the crisis, after the war stopped, was the speed with which the United States, particularly, moved to try to push forward Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. How do you interpret that speed and the intensity? They're committed, and they seem to be going very

quickly. A lot of people are skeptical, a lot of people are hopeful, but how do you interpret this energy that they are expending?

[Husayn] I have had the chance to meet with Secretary of State Baker several times now, and of course I knew him before. I knew the President over many, many years and we are all friends over these years. And yet, I think that what used to worry me in the past was that there was almost, in the world of yesterday, a very close yesterday, an approach of perpetual change of an attitude by our American friends of crisis management, as such, more than looking deeply into issues. And I remember addressing many of the leaders of the United States in the recent past, even before President Bush came to assume his responsibilities, as I saw America grow stronger. That strength was really fine, physically speaking, and they were the strongest power in the world—there is no doubt about that. But real strength is something beyond that. Real strength is strength that is based on upholding principles and morals and ideals and applying them equally, everywhere in the world. And if they could achieve that, they could certainly be the strongest of all powers in the world, and at the same time contribute towards a better future for mankind. I often wondered whether they could ever be an honest broker for peace in this region in terms of the attitudes that they took in the past on several occasions. But I really believe now that, more than ever, there is a move away to be, to realize what the potentials of the United States and its responsibilities are. And so they speak of new world order. They speak of balance in terms of the issue here and the need to move on it. I believe they are sincere, and I am encouraged by everything that I've heard so far to, to hope that maybe something will happen.

[Khuri] We've seen interesting signs also in terms of the negotiations in Cambodia, now in Cyprus most recently....

[Husayn, interrupting] Yes.

[Khuri, continuing] ....the Americans taking a more decisive and a more balanced....

[Husayn, interrupting] Yes.

[Khuri, continuing] ....position. So this may be a development that can have implications other than just the Middle East.

[Husayn] I believe it will, and I certainly hope it will.

[Khuri] Let's talk a little bit about the Arab-Israeli negotiations that people are trying to set up. There are clear signs of movement taking place now, and there is a hope of a peace conference perhaps in October. Are you satisfied now with the political context in which this negotiation may take place?

[Husayn] I don't think it has taken its final form. I mean there are still many questions to be worked out or to be answered, but I think that for the first time in years and years.... [changes thought] What you see is that the process is moving much faster than even our ability to keep up with it at times, although I think we will, in a way, of course. Essentially, we had President Bush address the joint houses of Congress and spoke of 242 and 338 and the need for their implementation, and land for peace, and Palestinian rights, Palestinian soil, and security for all concerned.

[Khuri] And security not based on occupying land.

[Husayn] I believe that real security is derived from the feeling of people that they have got something that they can live with. This is my feeling. Obviously, there may have to be arrangements on the ground here and there, but security is in peace and is in a balanced peace and is the result of an honorable peace that we need and we seek for all concerned.

[Khuri] It seems to me that—I don't know if my analysis is correct—but it seems that the Arab side has made procedural concessions in order to focus on the substantive issues. Procedural meaning the role of the UN, and the nature of the conference, and all of these technical issues in order to, in a sense, get to the conference on the principle of land for peace. Is that a correct assessment?

[Husayn] I believe it is correct, sir, but I also.... [changes thought] For example, the question of: Will it be under the UN auspices and so on? Well after all, if 242 and 338 end up with the Security Council guarantees and the blessing of the whole world, then it really doesn't matter whether probably it is under the auspices of the UN immediately, or it is sponsored by the two superpowers, with the presence of Europe as a participant and with the UN being an observer in the process. And I've been saying since the beginning that we should leave a lot of the old taboos and cliches and move ahead really, and it's not a question of semantics; it's really a question of dealing with the problem that has affected, is affecting so many people and then future [words indistinct]. So I think that there are some considerable Arab concessions, and one hopes very, very much indeed that on the Israeli side as well, they can see in the present the opportunity what we see. And I hope that they will be able to look at what it is likely to mean to be out of the fortress, out of the fortress mentality, to see what peace really means in the broader context of not being imprisoned within that fortress forever, looking with suspicion and fear about everybody around. And the Palestinians need a similar process. We need it in the Arab states adjoining Israel, but beyond that I believe that the problems are regional problems. [Words indistinct] the land mass of Jordan and the land of Palestine, including Israel. It's not a question of an approach to try to get every Palestinian in the world and every Jordanian in the world and every Israeli in the world and every Jew in the world to come and be confined in this area.

It is peace with all it offers in the way of opportunities and chances to have the talent and abilities of people to create a better environment and, hopefully, a better world, and I believe also that the recent Gulf crisis, for

example, provided quite a shock to me in one sense in connection to all the others that [words indistinct]. We now realize that 250,000 people of Palestinian origin, Jordanians in some cases, in some cases some who didn't even leave from here are now back with us here in Jordan since Iraq went into Kuwait, not since the liberation of Kuwait. This is the third wave. We have always been accused of trying to liquidate the Palestinian problem by sharing with our brethren everything that we had, including nationality, although it was very, very clear that this was a transition until such time as they had the right to decide what they wished when the Palestinian problem was resolved by ....[changes thought] But then what?

I mean we used to get mad, and we still do, and we hear of Palestinians being expelled from the occupied territories or from Israel. Yet to have this third wave of people come back here—and they are welcome amongst their family and amongst their brethren—with no rights. I mean it really is maddening as far as I am concerned that these people have no rights, our brethren, the people who are supposed to help and assist in every way we can in the Arab world, the Palestinian cause on every lip for years and years—what does it mean? Why shouldn't a Palestinian in Kuwait have the possibility of a Kuwaiti—and I am not citing that name as anything in particular—Kuwaiti nationality and a Palestinian nationality, a Kuwaiti and a Jordanian nationality in the way that an Israeli has the right to be an Israeli and an American at the same time, or whatever other nationality he chooses. Why this treatment? There's much that has been wrong, and therefore it is a regional problem. It is something that everybody has to address and look at as we move ahead hopefully toward....

[Khuri, interrupting] Of course we've had a third wave now, but there are countries in the region, and even further afield from the Gulf crisis, that had their first wave of massive return of their own people in Yemen, the Kurds, the Shiites, other Iraqis, Bangladeshis, Egyptians. About 4 to 5 million people were displaced by this crisis, and most of them have been returned home either penniless or without jobs. So the human impact of continuing instability in the region seems to be spreading further and further afield.

[Husayn] That is a fact, and I think the sad part is that unless we really, I hope, move toward democracy and power-sharing in the area and the creation of the institutions that will ensure continuity and avert sudden and unexpected moves that have occured—I witnessed two crises in my life, one in '67 and the second one in the year that has passed of a similar nature—then I think we are in trouble.

And on the other hand, the more we work on a regional basis, in terms of trying to put it together, even within the context of the ACC [Arab Cooperation Council] for example, as it existed, and of course I think it is frozen right now, but the ideas of trying to concentrate on the economic dimension of what could you do to help each other, you have to have a connection of interests as well, which bring people together, which bring them to know each other better, which therefore create bonds and create links that would outlast any small problems that might exist, which create a sense of reliance, and need to rely upon each other in a meaningful way. It is.... [changes thought] The Arab world can never unite around an individual, nor do I believe it is the right of just leaders to agree or disagree amongst each other. The Arab world must be alive, and the rights of people must be recognized. There must be freedom, there must be respect for human rights, and I hope we can, as we influenced the world in the past, create something that would be positive for the generations to come in the future, in time, but hopefully soon.

[Khuri] I want to talk more about that, but I want to ask you a couple more questions about the current peacemaking prospects. A majority of Israelis, a small majority, maybe 55 percent, but consistently the majority of Israelis, in public opinion polls say that they are willing to trade land for peace. They do not say how much land, but the principle of land for peace is clearly there among the people of Israel. It obviously isn't there in this present coalition government. My guess is, perhaps as the Israeli people recognize the opportunity at hand, that there may be a political movement in the grass roots that would force the government to become more conciliatory. Is that a possibility?

[Husayn] I certainly hope so. And I think that as far as the Israeli public is concerned, they have also a golden opportunity to contribute towards peace that would be in their interest. And I fully realize, and believe many of us do, what the Jewish people have suffered and have gone through, but they should also recognize that others are suffering and have suffered. And there has to be an end to this and there has to be a change. And this is a chance so let's take it.

[Khuri] You have small children, I have small children, we talk to them. They watch the news. They ask us questions. They are starting out their young life. What should the young children of Israel think? What should a 10-year-old child, sitting with their parents in Israel, think about the prospects of living in a peaceful Middle East? This is a possibility that we and they might look forward to.

[Husayn] I believe it is very much a possibility, and I hope that I will begin in the near future towards it. An honorable, just peace is exactly what will provide that, but it is my responsibility, and yours and people of our generation—and I am older than you are, so I apologize for that—it is our responsibility to ensure that our children and our grandchildren and all the generations that come after us live in a healthy, clean atmosphere of respect for their human dignity, of the release of their talents to create something that has never been possible until now, and to live without fear, to live in security.

And after all, if we look at the area, basically, we are followers of the three great monotheistic religions, and this is the birthplace of these religions. And we have, we have a message that goes far beyond this particular area to the world and to humanity, and I would hope, certainly, that before one is no more, that maybe one has contributed something towards a better future. That has always been an illusive dream, but I hope that it will be realized.

[Khuri] Because it is ironic, in the short term, people look at the Middle East in the last 40-50 years, there is conflict and war and human suffering and emotional extremism. But if you look historically, the common ethical and moral and human bonds between the three monotheistic religions—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—the bonds are much stronger than the things that separate us, and we've already had....

[Husayn, interrupting] Of course sir, of course sir, and they have always been. And as far as Islam is concerned, it is a continuation of the three great—in other words, it's the continuation of the monotheistic religions that preceded it, and it is the third. And whenever we pray every day, we pray for blessings upon the prophet as Abraham was blessed. And to us in Islam, Abraham was the first Muslim, and all the religions that followed, and the prophets that followed are Muslims. So I mean Muslim is, or Islam is not the very, very confined pictures that sometimes may be on the minds of some, but the message of love and tolerance and respect for each other. I think sometimes religion unfortunately, and faith, is a victim of people who use faith and religion to try to arrive at positions of power, or seek their own ends, but many times they may be questionable in terms of the real faith and the real religion, or their understanding of what faith and religion truly are.

[Khuri] Is it crazy to look ahead and imagine that in a peaceful Middle East, with the Palestinians exercising their national rights according to UN resolutions, the Israelis having the recognition of security that they seek, the other Arab states having their rights, that the Middle East could emerge as a common Semitic home, like you have the common European home, in the Middle East? All the children of Abraham can live not only in peace but in constructive interaction to put together the human and the natural resources of all the people of the region and to perhaps, again, contribute to the world as this region contributed to the world in the great age of the Jewish and the Christian and Islamic theologians and philosophers and scientists. Is that a crazy dream, or is that....

[Husayn, Interrupting] I don't believe it is crazy, sir. I don't believe it is crazy. In fact I often have it, and I often had it consistently. It's something that is a real possibility, and by the way, I don't want to sound offensive at all to anyone, but at times, you know, when we find the outside world, outside this region, interfering in matters in a negative way and preventing progress towards a solution, many of us have done that by the way within the region itself. One wondered whether it was, at times, almost a great conspiracy which was anti-Semitic, not in the sense of Jews but in the sense of all Semites, because after all, all of us are, and to keep them perpetually fighting each other and suffering. But those were just moments of anger that I don't believe this to be the case, and I believe that the whole world is really interested in contributing towards a solution. I believe things are moving in that way, and I hope.

[Khuri] On a more technical point, the central importance of the principle of land for peace: It's in 242. It's in George Bush's speech of March 6. It's clearly in the Arab summit resolutions. Everybody accepts it that the Israelis publicly still say they refuse it. Do you think this will perhaps be such an obstacle that the conference will never take place? Or do you think that we can somehow bridge the gap?

[Husayn] I think it's a very basic point. But I think that the preference of myself, certainly, and many who are dealing with this problem is to move away from repeating old positions. We know exactly what is needed and required for peace. It has to be one that recognizes the basic rights that generations after us are going to live with and enjoy, the rights of all. But on the other hand, it has to be balanced. You can't have the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war applied somewhere and not applied elsewhere. So as far as we are concerned, these territories are occupied territories. Palestinians have the legitimate right over these occupied territories and to determine their future. So, but I think that there is a need for active quiet diplomacy, there is a need for education, there is a need for work that does not bring us to the point where we conduct the whole exercise on the airwaves or in public statements, otherwise we will never get anywhere. It is so serious, so critical, and I'd certainly hope that the positions, and I am sure that, I mean if looking ahead, the first meetings, the first conference, I am sure that everybody is going to be very very tense and everybody is going to have extreme positions put across. Unfortunately, in our case, we *always* put across our position, and it is neither extreme nor minimal. We can't go beyond that. I am talking of Jordan itself, and this has gotten us in trouble because people think that we are bargaining. We are not bargaining on any issue. Throughout our history, I've found that.

But visualize it way into it: mere contact, mere dialogue, mere [changes thought].... And of course with the help of the rest of the world and hopefully the moral weight of the rest of the world pushing for a solution, I think things will begin to change in no time. Look at the attended Arab summits, and the first meetings have not been the same as the second and third after a long break. It's human nature.

[Khuri] But there is *also* something very potentially moving and almost spiritual in Israelis and Arabs sitting down and negotiating under a negotiating structure that is acceptable to all of them based on international legitimacy because the potential for a peaceful Middle

East strikes me as absolutely tremendous. Maybe this is why we think the Western world does not want a peaceful and a united Middle East. But I think when you get Arabs and Israelis sitting down negotiating there would be a symbolism there that only we can give the Israelis—we the whole of the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular—only we can give the Israelis the peace that they have sought since the days of Moses. Only they can give us the security and stability in the short term that we seek for normal life for our children.

[Husayn] That is very much a possibility, and it will be very interesting, but we will have to see what goes on.

[Khuri] Is there a danger though your majesty, in the short term, that the .... [changes thought] Some people say that there is such an imbalance of power now—the Israelis supported by the Americans, especially after the war in the Gulf—are .... [changes thought] Politically they have an upper hand. Some people say this; I don't personally agree, but there is a feeling that there is an imbalance and that the Israelis, and maybe even the Americans, are looking at these negotiations as a commercial deal. It is supply and demand. They are stronger; they can get us at the table in a weaker position, make a peace that may not be satisfactory in the end to the Palestinians and the Arabs, but it's the best we can get. Then everybody goes home, and there's a false illusion of peace that will collapse. Is this a danger?

[Husayn] I think there could be such a danger if people really believe that this could be the venue. I mean we are not talking about power and the lack of it at the moment in history. That may change. Inevitably it will change at some point or another if that is the only criteria. I hope that people will not look at that as a determining factor, but that we are a new world. This world has seen us go through a terrible time during the last year in this particular region over an issue that could have, or could not have, been resolved peacefully. I believe it could have if enough effort was put into it before the thing blew up.

But in any event we have another problem which is chronic, which is with us, which has been at the center of attention of the world for many years. Is this a new world? What does a new world order mean? All these are questions that do not really affect us only, but affect the rest of the world and every region and every continent. Are we moving to try to set rules, contribute towards them and guarantees for greater security and cooperation and a better future for mankind or not? I believe all these questions are there. They are more important than who is stronger at the moment because strength is a relative thing and it changes. But if peace is established now on the kind of basis that generations after us, and I keep repeating, that will accept and live with, that is the greatest achievement that any of us, regardless of complexes, and our past and our present, and whatever it is, could be the greatest form of contribution we could make for the future.

[Khuri] Because it seems to me we have to really think in terms of sowing the seeds for continuity at a long-term peace, not just to get through the next few years. It is a long-term process and a permanent and comprehensive peace that we want. I do not know if the Israelis and Americans appreciate this.

[Husayn] No. That is why I have welcomed the approach that it should be addressed as a regional problem and been encouraged by the fact that others in the region are showing great interest of being being a part of it.

[Khuri] One of the other aspects of Arab-Israeli peacemaking over the years that has been interesting is how the Israelis and the Americans particularly and some others keep trying to drag Jordan in to solve the Palestine problem. Or they sometimes talk of solving it by sending all the Palestinians here. That this is this constant attempt to evade the Palestinian reality and to deal with it through Jordan or through Egypt, as Camp David, or somebody else. You've said many times that this will not happen.

[Husayn] It can't work. It won't work. And of course, it can't happen because we believe firmly and we have committed ourselves to the fact that the Palestinians have indicated their wish to speak for themselves, to represent themselves, regarding their dimension of the problem with regard to Israel, and so they have to be there. And we are not going to substitute for them, nor can we, nor do we wish to. And only Palestinians elected and positioned for that role by Palestinians can do the task that is required of them and we have offered the umbrella of a joint delegation to deal with the problem. We should have, they would have to deal with their side of it in terms of the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of it.

We would have to work together in terms of the Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli dimension of it, and we would also have to work on a third level, which is the regional level. But Palestine and Israel, only the Palestinians can do that. If it facilitates the process for them to be there under this umbrella of a joint delegation—because we have always said that our future is linked together and this is a fact based on discussions in '85, even then by all means. So we're waiting to hear their view and if they wish us to help in any way, we will help. We will help in any event, but I mean within the context of the [word indistinct].

[Khuri] Is there anything qualitatively different now about the Jordanian-Palestinian, Jordanian-PLO, relationship, different than it was in previous years in terms of your working together to get into a negotiation?

[Husayn] I believe that what has happened over the years is that the dialogue has intensified and that many myths and misconceptions have been removed and that Jordanian-Palestinian is something entirely different to what it was in the past under these misconceptions. They know that our fate is intertwined and interlinked, and we have nothing in the way of interest except to support them and to regain their rights and to establish their

rights on their legitimate soil and to work together. You know, there's been a situation where, in the recent past, the feeling has grown, I believe, that because of the Palestinian-Israeli, Arab-Israeli problem, we are much more together now, and we realize that we have to rely on each other and support each other, as a people, much more than ever before. And certainly, as far as Jordan is concerned with democracy, and as it is moving, we have to link what is happening with what we claim to be. We claim to be part of a greater nation; we claim to be one people, which we are historically and all the rest of it, but this has to begin here, and everybody has to respect everybody else in a context of freedom. Freedom and democracy does not mean that the infringement of someone on the rights of others, Muslims, Christians alike, Arabs. Not an East-banker and a West-banker and a Palestinian and a Jordanian, and when you break it down, it becomes a fight between villages next door.

No, we have to be the example sir. Jordan has to be the example. Our relationship has to be the example that the Arab world needs for a better future for the Arab nation everywhere.

[Khuri] Looking ahead, to be optimistic, let's say there is a negotiation, it does work, there is a gradual Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian self-determination, then we get to the point where we have to establish the form of relationship between the self-determinant Palestinian entity and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Has there been much thought put into what exactly would be the relationship in the future between the East and the West, between Palestine and Jordan? Or is it too...

[Husayn, interrupting] I think it is too early, but if you look at the past, I mean there are constant references to a very close and a very special relationship. Starting in the seventies, we, in the early seventies, we suggested that an alternative could be a federal arrangement or a union of two elements, Jordan and Palestine, under a central government with central parliament, with a government in each, and its own local parliament, and under one leadership; or two independent states; or at that time a return to the union that existed before, which I never believed in in the first place. I mean, I've lived with it all these years, but I've, until the break, convinced that it was a wrong approach. [sentence as heard] The Palestinian is very attached to his identity; the Jordanian is attached to his identity. But we are brethren; we are members of one family. So it's got to be a balanced relationship and a confederation, whatever, but we will work it out. It may be too early at this stage to.

[Khuri] And, inshallah [God willing], we get the chance to do it [word indistinct].

[Husayn] Inshallah.

[Khuri] The American approach to negotiations—do you see something different in the American attitude now? Are they more serious? Are they more aware of the potential dangers? How do you see their approach now in relation to the many, many other peace initiatives that you've dealt with over the years?

[Husayn] I believe they are more serious than they've certainly been over the many years that have passed. They are more determined, and the world is with them. And, I think they all realize that we can't afford failure. So although you know there are signs as to what they can or cannot do, I am sure they have their own positions that they are clarifying to us in terms of the major issues or dimensions of the problem, but also they will be there, they and the Soviets, and hopefully the whole of the rest of the world in one way or another in trying to overcome difficulties so that a success is achieved, because failure—and things could be far worse than they are right now.

[Khuri] Let's look internally a little bit at Jordan—1989 was a pivotal year. We had some problems, people were angry. There was a little bit of violence and then there was a change. You have spoken since in very clear terms about not only the importance of democracy and human rights and pluralism and respect, but also you've spoken of Jordan as a model for the Middle East not only in political terms. You also talk of environmental terms and human developments. In the political field, how is your perception of your country today, different maybe, than it was five or 10 years ago. Has there been a change in your own mind?

[Husayn] I believe there are very many changes and when we can see, Rami, people sitting together, discussing the charter, and developing that charter and agreeing to it from both ends, the two extremes, left and right and right across, and we see the charter [words indistinct] how well it has been well received—free elections, progress towards pluralism, then all these developments in the area and the crisis we've passed through. By the way, we were hit twice, as you well know. We were hit by the first economic disaster that took us by surprise when it was really again the result of our being on the receiving end of every negative development in the Palestinian cause in terms of human dimensions and others, or for that matter that Israel has always been supported by the rest of its friends whereas we had to rely on less and less support from our brethren Arabs, and commitments not coming because suddenly the Jordan dinar collapsed to about half its value.

[Khuri] You are talking of '88, '89?

[Husayn] I am talking about that period. That was a [words indistinct] tremendous blow but we were decided on democracy and we were decided for every decisions we took regarding the relations of Jordan and the West Bank and [word indistinct], and we decided to go through with it. [Words indistinct] first elections people not probably realizing the opportunity or the meaning of it. Free elections. Is it free or is it something similar to past experiences in the area or a certain mode of doing things. Of course they were. And then to get that dialogue, and then to pass through the crises of this last year,

the human dimension, the semi- isolation, the attempts to distort our image in the world, pressures, yet coming through with our heads high, coming through it with having suffered a lot but more confident than ever.

I mean if you visualized Jordan as a traditional state in this area with all these pressures, I think it would have either imploded or exploded under the heavy pressures. That was a good test, sir. And right now I think we are moving ahead. We are moving ahead rapidly. Obviously, during these times we still don't have the parties in this way that one would like to see them develop....

[Khuri, interrupting] The political parties?

[Husayn] Yes sir, because it is a process that is going through being studied and....[changes thought] But I am looking at the possibility of a small follow-up group from the people who put together the Mithaq [National Charter] to remind people concerned as they bring the mechanics into being as what the spirit of the Mithaq is....

[Khuri, interrupting] The Charter?

[Husayn] The Charter, in other words, and on the other hand I am in constant touch with them and with the growing circles of people, again the same schools that were represented in the Charter group or the group that produced it and others, telling them of everything, sharing with them the knowledge of what is happening, quietly exchanging with them views on developments and on our responsibilities during this very, very critical time so as to make up for the fact that things are moving too quickly—and we welcome that—in comparison with our own timetable.

But beyond that, sir, the environment, the care for the future, the views of this country, the human dimension of it, the reliance on the best of what we can keep from our past yet opening up to the rest of the world to absorb all that is new, to be ready to do whatever we can for a better Arab world, and for a better area, and for a better world. There is so much that this country hopefully can achieve and can contribute, and I believe that it is vital that we succeed.

[Khuri] Vital for the region?

[Husayn] Vital for the region because it is an example which will hopefully inspire others to go along, sir. And by the way, I am so proud of the fact that although I am sure the Jordanians are perfectly capable of raising their voices and demanding their rights, but that in this case it wasn't that. It was all these years that we have lived together, and it was the leadership that was providing the opportunities for people to come and take them because we had reached the chance to do so in terms of time and in terms of circumstances. And so then, this confidence, it is, it is—as difficult as it is—it is the best of times.

[Khuri] How do you personally react to the process of democratization and people taking responsibility that had traditionally been on your shoulders for many many years? Are you more relaxed? Are you more able to deal with other issues? How do you personally respond to the political change in the country?

[Husayn] I'm very happy with it; I really am very, very happy with it more than I can say. And if you refer to that dimension of it, I've always believed sir that you can't have two opposing poles just for the sake of it between humans. I mean if it is a question of logic and common sense, you either convince me or I convince you, or we arrive at some compromise and conclusion. This is the way the human mind ought to work. It isn't a question that because so and so is against me, then I am against him. If I had followed that approach with leaders, with people, I wouldn't have, probably, the opportunity to talk to anybody in the world at this point in time after all the years that have passed.

But a Jordanian, be he for us or against us in terms of the past, was a Jordanian and had the same rights as every other Jordanian. And we are very happy indeed and proud to see him there now and so there is a sense of confidence. And of course I believe in people and I don't believe in individuals. Monarchy may provide continuity and symbolism in that respect. We, as Hashemites, may have a role or may not in the future, who knows, but it's so important to get this country going and to get the Arab people going and to get them to have pride in themselves and to get them to feel that they have the right to say yes or no, to discuss and debate, all within, obviously, the norms of mutual respect for each other and nonviolence. There is so much that needs to be done and so much that we have done, and hopefully, Jordan will be an example to others, sir.

[Khuri] Well I think that the way that we weathered the Gulf crisis is, probably, the best testament in the short term to the importance and power of a democratic country where people can express themselves, and the way the country held together. Of course we suffered economically, but that is a very small....

[Husayn, interrupting] Suffered?

[Khuri, continues] price to pay for your pride and your dignity.

[Husayn] Yes. Sure, sure.

[Khuri] You've talked of, in a recent interview, you talked about the leaders of the Arab world not being made into demagogues. Is this, do you think this is one of our problems that....

[Husayn, interrupting] I am sorry. I hope that I don't offend anyone by saying that, sir, but I have seen that happen in this region and I've seen it happen, or read about it happening, in other parts of the world. And I think where we don't have democracy or we don't have pluralism or we don't have people having their rights to say yes or no and discuss and debate, the chances are there that people out of fear or out of whatever reason, mislead their leaders to the point where a terrible [word

indistinct] of judgment occur and in my lifetime, certainly, this has happened at least twice in this region, and it's really, really tragic to have lived through them. Both cases trying to prevent a disaster occurring, but then [words indistinct].

[Khuri] And you see democracy, and participatory government, and accountability of public officials, you see these as the guarantee of a stable and an honorable future for the Arab world?

[Husayn] I think so. I feel so very, very strongly, but again all within balance. I mean when we talk of Jordan, we talk of the three areas: legislature, government, and it has to be government, and the legal system as well, and possibly the leader then creating the balance of watching over, overseeing that none of these infringe on the other and at the same time freedom for people and democracy.

[Khuri] How do you see your own role as king in this changing context? You obviously don't have to get involved in details as much as you used to 10 or 20 years ago. What is the future perspective of the monarchy in Jordan in your own eyes, if the process develops as we all want it to develop? Will we see a more constitutional monarchy, like in Denmark and England and Spain?

[Husayn] I think it will be our brand of constitutional monarchy because after all, our experience is probably different. But I certainly would rather see less and less of the monarchy interfering in the daily affairs of the country, if that should be the system that continues in the future, or decisionmaking. It should be a dynamo, it should be a unifying factor, it should be a symbol. And it can provide a symbol for the unity and the reason for the unity as well, because it is not inclined towards this faction or the other faction, or has it come too far, having sought it and achieved it by fighting for it or destroying anybody else for it? So maybe it will work better.

[Khuri] I was fascinated in April '89 during the little crisis we had. You were in the United States on a trip and there was a sense that, you know, where is his majesty? Abu-'Abdallah come back and do something. People look to you to do something to deal with the problems that the country was faced with. How did you respond to that feeling?

[Husayn] Well I was very touched, and I believed that the minute one would arrive back, things would calm down, and they calmed down immediately. But people within this country have given me so much of their love and their confidence. Maybe after all these years that have passed they have more of the faith and confidence in this person who has been one of them throughout his life and who has been nothing else and who has believed in them and cared for them all.

But on the other hand, that is precisely where I feel that I must do everything I can, and they must help me to create a country that does not need Abu-'Abdallah or Abu- so and so at any moment to come and to deal with a situation. Of course, it is the duty of a leader to do so, but it has got to be put together in such a way that it weathers storms and it continues and the future is bright and all are proud of being a part of it.

[Khuri] Many people ask why is the democratization of Jordan now going to succeed when in the fifties it was a abruptly stopped. How do you see the differences? Are there any concerns in your mind?

[Husayn] I don't think I have many, many concerns. Of course, one has concerns. In the fifties, it stopped. We believed in it, we worked for it very much, but we had a different set of circumstances. There was a lot of outside influence over the area and behind the scenes everywhere. My people were affected by what had happened on the Palestinian side, and again Jordan was a product of a new thinking, and the beliefs of the leaders and the participants in the great Arab revolt of one nation, united, and.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

So political parties here were really receiving their inputs from outside the country because they were extensions of parties in other parts of the Arab world. It didn't work. Eventually, it broke up because....

[Khuri, interrupting] But it is different [word indistinct].

[Husayn] I suppose that was inevitable, however it is different, and it is very, very substantially different. And I hope that Jordan will be an area that will eliminate the darkness in this region in the future in terms of thinking and in terms of [words indistinct] approach to life. And also I believe that it is different in the sense that people believe that charity begins at home. [Words indistinct] for an Arab nation by all means. Maybe the European experience being repeated in this part of the world is a more likely scenario for the future, but you don't have to rely on others. You have to start and be attractive to others in what you can produce yourself, what you can do yourself at home, and so there is that change. And I think that therefore we can succeed and we will succeed. We have done so so far, thank God.

[Khuri] Looking to the future and looking to the region, you were talking earlier before about the need for the people of the region to work together and to share their resources. The region is badly split today between the parties that were on different sides on the Gulf crisis. You have called for reconciliation, but your call doesn't seem to have been taken up by very many people in the region. How do you see the short term, the next year or two in the Middle East? How will reconciliation come about?

[Husayn] I suppose it will inevitably come, sir. I am convinced with the truth coming out about everything that has happened. It will certainly dispel many of the causes for this friction in the region, and need, necessity, the interests of people all make it imperative that such [words indistinct]. And can you see us, frankly, going into October and we know where we are, and if the Palestinians join us, or wish to join to us, then fine, that is good. But can you see us really going to try to deal with

the most serious of problems that all of us have been afflicted, not talking to each other, not coordinating with each other? Well, we'll have to wait and see.

[Khuri] There is a lot of bitterness and vindictiveness in the region because of the aftermath of the Gulf war, but at the same time, I think in my lifetime this is the first time that I see people in the region—both leaders and average people—speaking honestly, saying exactly what they feel, even if it angers other people in the Arab world. This is a problem. It is uncomfortable in the short term, but in the long term, do you anticipate that this truth in communication within the Arab family will serve our goals?

[Husayn] There has to be truth and honesty, sir, as opposed to the reverse that has been the trend in this region in many cases over a long period of time in the past. And in this context that we have produced this white paper—very, very factual and a very accurate summary of what happened during this last year, for history, because again, to know the truth and to be involved and to keep quiet and say it does not matter, others misrepresent it. It does matter, sir. The truth has to come out—the truth. In that sense we have tried to make contribution towards that, and I hope that this will be the way for others in the future.

[Khuri] And the truth shall make us free.

[Husayn] Of course it shall. Yes it shall.

[Khuri] Your Majesty, we have time just for one more question. What is your message to the 10-year-old children of the Semitic family?

[Husayn] God willing, we won't fail you, and we'll hope to know that you will have a future which is far better than anything we have experienced so far, and at the same time we hope and pray that your judgment of us and your children and your children's children long after we are gone will be for us and not against us.

[Khuri] I am sure it will be. Thank you, Your Majesty.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir.

Iraq's Ramadan Discusses Peace With Husayn

JN0708154191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan who conveyed to his majesty an oral message from his brother President Saddam Husayn. Ramadan also heard a report on the results of the latest peace efforts to reach a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and his majesty's political advisor. The meeting was also attended by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd al-Faysal and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Leaves Amman After Visit

JN0808113191 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan left Amman this morning after a two-day visit to Jordan during which he conveyed to His Majesty King Husayn a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. During his visit to Jordan, Mr. Ramadan held talks with high-ranking Jordanian officials on the situation in the Middle East, the current efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian question, as well as bilateral relations between Jordan and Iraq. The Iraqi vice president was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Mr. Tahir al-Masri, the minister of culture and information, Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, who is also acting foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Islamic Jihad Statement on Freeing of McCarthy

NC0808103191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1016 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Islamic Jihad Organization announced that it had released British hostage John McCarthy to deliver a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. The statement was accompanied by a photograph of McCarthy, who looked weak and had a beard. The statement made no mention of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

In its statement, the organization announced: Our emissary, Mr. John McCarthy, was dispatched at 1100 today to convey our message to the UN secretary general, and this message will be delivered to him personally. The typewritten statement bore the signature of the Islamic Jihad Organization.

Contacts by UN Official

NC0808093891 Paris AFP in English 0935 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 8 (AFP)—British hostage John McCarthy 34, was released Thursday to deliver a message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the pro-Iranian group Islamic Jihad said. McCarthy, a cameraman with the U.S.-British network Worldwide Television News, was kidnapped here on April 17, 1986, just days after U.S. air strikes against Libya. [passage omitted]

U.N. representative Giandomenico Picco was reported Wednesday to have travelled to Damascus to meet Iranian Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri, who was in the Syrian capital for talks with senior Syrian officials. The announcement by Islamic Jihad Thursday was its first acknowledgement that it had been holding McCarthy. Previously, no group had claimed the abduction. McCarthy had been one of 12 Westerners held in Lebanon.

TEHRAN TIMES Cited

PM0708154391 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Hostage Issue Reactivated Once Again"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—The information cited by yesterday's TEHRAN TIMES about the possible release of two of the hostages held in Lebanon (a Briton and an American) at the end of the week have not been confirmed in Beirut by diplomatic sources very close to the Iranian and Syrian capitals, though they unanimously agreed that the hostage issue has been reactivated once again and that contacts are being made at more than one level.

The diplomatic sources told AL-HAYAH that they have no precise answer to the press information conveyed by TEHRAN TIMES through its correspondent in Beirut, especially since they have no knowledge of the existence of a special correspondent for that newspaper in the Lebanese capital.

The sources said that Tehran is continuing its endeavors to close the hostage file and that it is willing to play an influential role among the quarters that have influence over the kidnappers, but it wishes that the states concerned would play a similar role that would help release the Lebanese prisoners held in the detention center on the occupied border and in Israeli jails.

The diplomatic sources went on to emphasize the need to agree on a tripartite agreement that would lead to resolving the question of the Israeli soldiers who disappeared during the June 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon or during Israeli Army units' penetration into the liberated area in the South, and to the release of the foreign hostages as well as the Lebanese prisoners held in Israeli detention centers.

The sources did not rule out that the aim behind the TEHRAN TIMES report, which has published similar reports in the past, could be to reactivate the hostage issue in a manner that would turn Tehran into a center for polarizing the states concerned with the hostages, or perhaps the Iranian press information comes within the context of pressure aimed at reactivating the hostage question after endeavors were suspended as a result of obstructing an agreement on a complete deal preceded by a U.S. goodwill initiative vis-a-vis the Iranian assets held in U.S. banks, namely by releasing a payment.

Furthermore, the sources revealed to AL-HAYAH that the Iranian-British contacts made in the past spoke about the possibility of a delegation representing the Anglican Church in Britain visiting Tehran and Damascus to seek their help in securing the hostages' release.

The sources said that the visit was planned but that it was not certain whether it would take place soon, especially since it was raised with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati during his recent stopover in London.

In this regard AL-HAYAH asked a Lebanese ministerial official familiar with the hostage file about the truth of what is being reported about the release of two hostages, and he just said: "The information I have confirms that contacts have started to reactivate the hostage issue, and I believe that the definitive answer remains with Washington in identifying the extent of its willingness to put pressure on Israel to release the Lebanese prisoners."

The source noted that the TEHRAN TIMES report remains Iranian in terms of source and orientation and that Damascus and Tehran had agreed on more than one occasion on the need to find a peaceful way out with regard to the hostages by making their release coincide with that of the Lebanese prisoners and by determining the fate of the Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

The ministerial source said that "Tehran remains the source of definitive news about the hostages, and I hope that the matter is not merely a sounding-out exercise."

Circles close to Damascus told AL-HAYAH that "we have nothing new regarding the hostages. The published report is no more than press information, that's all, even though we doubt the period of time specified. We hope that that information is true because what concerns us is the release of all the hostages."

Lebanese Army Finds German 'Hostages' in Cave

NC0708163291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] A Lebanese Army force has found German national Gerd Schletter and his wife Ingeborg, who entered Lebanon late in December 1990 and have been missing since. The force found them in a cave in the south, and it turned out they had been held in a well and were taken from one well to another. An investigation revealed that Gerd was detained by German police in 1981 for six months because he took part in demonstrations supporting the Baader Meinhof organization. The German Embassy and German authorities in Beirut have been notified that the two German nationals have been found.

It should be recalled that no party claimed responsibility for kidnapping these two hostages other than the Mujahidin for Freedom organization, which declared not long ago its responsibility for kidnapping German hostages Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner on 16 May 1989.

A German Embassy source in Beirut declined to comment on the Army's finding the two Germans. The competent security departments handed over the two German nationals to Khalid Hammud, the assistant military public prosecutor.

More on Detention of German Couple

NC0708174491 Paris AFP in English 1733 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug 7 (AFP) - The cases of a pro-Palestinian German couple detained by the Lebanese Army a month ago while working as volunteer nurses for Palestinian organizations went before a court here Wednesday, legal sources said. Gerd Schletter, 43, and his wife Ingeborg, 34, were arrested July 6 during a search conducted by the army after it had deployed in the Sidon region, the Palestine Liberation Organization's main stronghold in Lebanon.

The sources said the couple, sympathisers of extreme left-wing German causes, were "in very good health" and had been found in a cave where they had hidden to escape the search. Lebanese authorities notified the German Embassy they were holding two German nationals but gave no details on their fate. Embassy officials declined comment.

Informed sources said however that embassy second secretary Paul Harmel had visited the military prosecutor. A magistrate has been charged with investigating the matter and will question the couple in a bid to establish charges which could keep them under detention in Lebanon.

"The proper authorities must question them on the issue of their possible ties with acts of intelligence or terrorism," the legal sources said.

In a preliminary investigation by military intelligence services, the couple admitted coming to Lebanon in January 1990, after having faced difficulties in Germany, where Schletter was imprisoned for six months in 1981 for taking part in a demonstration backing the Baader-Meinhof terrorist organization.

'Terrorist' Couple Appears in Court

LD0708151491 Hamburg DPA in German 1409 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, 7 Aug (DPA)—A German married couple was brought before a military court in Lebanon today on the grounds of suspected terrorist activity. The Lebanese police announced today that the 52-year-old [as received] German and his 34-year-old wife were found in a cave near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon by an Army patrol. Security circles reported that the couple, which arrived in Lebanon in 1990, was held in detention by the Army for five weeks. The couple is accused of working with the PLO, which maintained a base near Sidon, about 40 km south of Beirut. The couple was interrogated in order to find out whether they belonged to the German terrorist group the Red Army Faction.

Buwayz Interview on Participation in Peace Talks

PM0708153991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Aug 91 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by George 'Alam in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Alam] There is great confusion among ministers and officials regarding the truth about the official Lebanese position on the peace conference, despite the Council of Minister decision to participate. What are the reasons for this confusion, which has increased since the recent Lebanese-Syrian summit?

[Buwayz] The word confusion is alien to the government's position and the regime in Lebanon. In Cairo I made a statement in which I announced Lebanon's support for the U.S. endeavors to convene a peace conference on the Middle East based on Resolutions 242 and 338, with the reservation of Lebanon's rights in full. I voiced reservations about implementing Resolution 425 and then explained in other statements and articles how Lebanon is concerned with the conference and with what it is concerned. I emphasized that it is an Arab state concerned with anything that relates to the Arab issue, that it hosts Palestinians on its territory, and that it is a

state neighboring on Israel and concerned with any future situation that may emerge between the Arabs and Israel. It is also a state concerned with Arab solidarity, and it deals with any problem in the world on the basis of this solidarity.

As for the occupied Lebanese territories, they are subject to international Resolution 425, which is binding on all groups and not linked to the Middle East crisis or the peace conference. So Lebanon will follow up the pressing demand for the implementation of Resolution 425, but this resolution resolves neither the Palestinian issue nor the Arab-Israeli conflict. So Lebanon has to enter the conference alongside the other Arab states. [passage omitted]

['Alam] So how do you explain the campaign which, in some aspects, is aimed against you personally on the basis that you "implicated" the government in this position on the peace conference?

[Buwayz] Regarding the adoption of that decision, I consulted the rulers over it first, and I also coordinated with a number of Arab states. When I announced the Lebanese position, it was the result of extensive contacts which we had made over earlier weeks, the result of very delicate coordination both inside and outside. It was this which made the Lebanese Government with all its members and with almost total unanimity—with the exception of one reservation which actually was a silence rather than a reservation—support the position.

['Alam] Some people say that Lebanon's participation in the peace conference may lead to a direct dialogue with Israel, while Resolution 425 stipulates Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territory and the restoration of the pre-occupation situation.

[Buwayz] We explained that Lebanon's absence from the conference would not at all mean that the conference will not deal with the Lebanese issue or that it will adopt negative or bad resolutions on Lebanon. In fact Lebanon's presence at the conference gives it sufficient strength to resist any plan that may be implemented at its expense. Its absence from a conference on such a scale may affect our people's and other people's firm belief that Lebanon has returned to existence.

Besides, Lebanon should not hesitate to make the right decision regarding the Palestinian people, on the grounds that it is concerned with their issue, and regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is in addition to the fact that Lebanon adheres and will continue to adhere to the total and unconditional implementation of Resolution 425. If Lebanon is cornered or senses a danger, we will react and will take whatever position we deem suitable in this regard.

['Alam] Is there a dialogue with the Palestinians, and if so, does this dialogue mean that Lebanon is anticipating a reality that it may face or may be imposed on it?

[Buwayz] No. The dialogue with the Palestinians in Lebanon lies in the framework of coordination within the Arab position, and just as it is taking place with a number of Arab states, it is also taking place with the Palestinian brothers. The aim of the dialogue is to unify the Arab view that will be presented at the international conference. [passage omitted]

PLO Leadership Welcomes Forming Talks Delegation

NC0708175391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The PLO political leadership in Lebanon has welcomed forming a unified Palestinian delegation to the talks with the Lebanese state. It called for a speedy improvement of Lebanese-Palestinian relations and for the release of the Palestinian detainees.

Al-Hirawi Receives Syrian Vice President Khaddam

NC0708191391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at his home in Zahlah this evening. It has been reported that Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni may join the meeting.

Envoy Delivers al-Qadhdhafi Message to al-Hirawi

NC0808120691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has been meeting with Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, since 1400. It has been learned that al-Kharrubi delivered a message to President al-Hirawi from Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

Dib on Possible Delay in Syrian Pullout

NC0808055491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Minister of State Roger Dib has expressed extreme concern over the course the al-Ta'if accord is taking. He added that some important clauses of the accord, including those dealing with the return of refugees to their homes and administrative decentralization, have been put on hold.

Asked about the possible postponement of some withdrawals if implementing Resolution 425 encounters obstacles, Dib expressed the view that such a measure would not be justified. He added: If we are talking, for instance, about the redeployment of the Syrian troops, then this section of the al-Ta'if accord has nothing to do with any regional issue. Everyone was unanimous on this point, he added.

Speaking to our radio, Dib added: We, as Lebanese citizens and particularly as Lebanese organizations, fulfilled our obligations under the al-Ta'if accord on schedule. There is, therefore, no justification for delaying any withdrawals or linking them to the question of Resolution 425, he concluded.

British Hostage McCarthy at Foreign Ministry

JN0808143991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1417 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] This afternoon at the Foreign Ministry, Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, handed over to Mr. Andrew Green, British ambassador in Damascus, John McCarthy, who was taken hostage in Beirut five years ago. In an interview with our correspondent, McCarthy thanked the governments of the countries that helped obtain his release, especially the Syrian Government. He said: I am happy to be in Damascus. I thank you for the good hospitality. Mr. McCarthy explained that his colleagues who were taken hostage with him are in good shape. He noted that the people who had taken him hostage gave him a message for the UN secretary general, which it is believed deals with the exchange of hostages for Lebanese and Palestinian detainees captured by Israel in Lebanon.

Makes Statement on Remaining Hostages

NC0808143691 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, Aug 8 (AFP) - Briton John McCarthy was freed Thursday after more than five years as a hostage in Lebanon and appealed for sustained international efforts to win the freedom of all captives in the Middle East. McCarthy, 34 and a cameraman with Worldwide Television News, arrived in Damascus from Beirut, a British diplomatic source reported.

The source said the former hostage appeared in good shape and had been handed over to British Ambassador Andrew Flemming-Green. In London, McCarthy's relatives and friends said he was expected to return to Britain later Thursday.

Islamic Jihad announced Thursday in Beirut that it had freed McCarthy, kidnapped in the Lebanese capital April 17, 1986, and had designated him as an envoy to discuss the entire hostage issue with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In a brief statement to reporters McCarthy, smiling and clean-shaven, had tears in his eyes as he spoke of his fellow captives.

He hailed "all the diplomatic efforts that have been made over the years, and have been increasingly made, for the Western hostages.

"I appeal to all these people to keep up their efforts to end the ordeal of my fellow hostages and all those held in similar conditions in the region."

He disclosed that his captors had told him that Islamic Jihad had said that, while it did not hold all the hostages, "their health and living conditions were good."

McCarthy would answer no questions after his brief statement and left immediately in the car of the British ambassador, heading for the envoy's residence.

The Syrian news agency SANA reported that a special plane from Cyprus was expected in Damascus, carrying McCarthy's father and sister as well as a medical team.

Others 'in Good Health'

NC0808153391 Paris AFP in English 1514 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Damascus, Aug 8 (AFP) - Freed British hostage John McCarthy Thursday said he had seen three Western captives in Lebanon this week and that all were well. McCarthy, who arrived here following his release in Lebanon by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad, disclosed that he had seen two American hostages, journalist Terry Anderson and academic Thomas Sutherland, and Church of England envoy Terry Waite. "I saw them two days ago and they are in good health," he told reporters after his arrival here.

Anderson, Middle East director for the Associated Press news agency, was kidnapped in Beirut March 16, 1985 and has been in captivity longer than any of the other 11 Westerners held in Beirut. "I would like to tell the families of U.S. hostages Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and my compatriot Terry Waite that when I left them two days ago they were in good health and in good spirits and that our living conditions recently were tolerable," McCarthy said. [passage omitted]

McCarthy, held since April 17, 1986, said his captors had given him a message to deliver to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, telling him that it dealt with a comprehensive arrangement to settle the hostage problem. "They gave me a message to convey personally to the secretary-general of the United Nations," he said.

McCarthy's release was announced earlier Thursday in Beirut by the pro-Iranian group Islamic Jihad, which is also believed to be holding Anderson and Sutherland.

McCarthy was expected to fly to Britain later Thursday, along with his father and brother who arrived here from Cyprus aboard a Royal Airforce plane.

Minister Discusses Ties With Iranian Counterpart

JN0708171091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, 7 Aug (SANA)—Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah today received Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi, interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation. The Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended.

Discussions centered on friendship and cooperation between Syria and Iran and the means to improve relations to serve the people of the two fraternal countries. The visiting minister voiced his happiness in visiting Syria and noted his country's interest in improving ties with Syria in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Sudanese Culture Minister

JN0708134191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1030 today Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and information, and the members of the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Talks during the meeting dealt with developing bilateral relations and strengthening relations between Syria and Sudan in various fields, especially in the information and cultural fields. They affirmed the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise between the two countries for realizing their joint interests and the need to strengthen the pillars of solidarity and cooperation among all Arab countries. Talks also tackled a number of issues of mutual interest.

Commentary: Talks Without Palestinians Meaningless

JN0708153691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: One indication of the relentless U.S. effort to establish peace in the region is that international law is returning to the Middle East after an absence of over half a century. During this time Israel acted as barrier between international law and the people of the region. Israel shunned international law whenever the law objected to its ambitions and aggressive policies and defied it whenever its resolutions and clauses touched on the requirements of justice, which is our ultimate goal.

Perhaps this long absence of international law from the events of the region—thanks to Israeli disobedience—has encouraged some adventurers to tamper with the traditions and values governing relations among the people of the region throughout the various stages of history. This absence lured them into believing that occupation and usurpation are an unaccountable course as long as the occupier possesses force and a means of aggression.

That is what actually happened a year ago when the Baghdad regime's reckless adventurism reached its peak by occupying fraternal Kuwait, annexing it by force, lending a deaf ear to international resolutions that condemned that occupation, and called for the liberation of Kuwait. During that heated crisis, the entire world, including us, moved to defend international law. All effective forces in the world came into an alliance to defend international resolutions and safeguard international legitimacy from the abuse and ambitions of adventurers. The world waged the Gulf war under a banner above defamation to restore the fraternal Kuwaiti people's rights and to rid them of the nightmare forcefully imposed on them by the Iraqi regime throughout seven months of occupation.

Thus, international law returned to the region through the gate of the Gulf war for the first time since the end of the World War II. Through the gate of the Gulf war, international efforts have also been launched to tackle the Arab-Israeli dispute on the basis of UN resolutions and the principles of international legitimacy. Proceeding from our faith in peace, respect for international legitimacy, and compliance with international law, we responded to and paved the way for these efforts. Perhaps our response to and understanding of the international position was motivated by our conviction that international law is the same everywhere with respect to all crises, and that justice has one face, in the Gulf war as well as in our conflict with Israel.

Based on this conviction, a just, comprehensive solution can only be achieved through enforcing international law and UN resolutions entirely and on all fronts—in Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. A peace conference not attended by the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian Arab people is meaningless as long as the Palestine question has been at the core of the dispute for over four decades.

As it returns to the region, international law is facing a test that must not end in failure, as failure means a return to the law of force and forcing the region into a dark tunnel of wars and disasters which will not spare any part of the world irrespective of distances and interests. The last chance opens doors for all in the interest of the area peoples, security, and peace. Will the chance slip from the hands of everyone, or will the voice of truth and the force of international law make the miracle of peace come true?

Afghanistan

Khaleqyar Receives UN Envoy, Benon Sevan

LD0708180191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The Prime Ministry press department reported that esteemed Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, received this afternoon Benon Sevan, UN deputy secretary general and special envoy, at his office and exchanged views on topics of interest.

During the meeting Benon Sevan briefed the prime minister of Afghanistan on the results of frequent contacts concerning the political solution of the Afghanistan question, apprising the relevant countries about the need to maintain peace, and developments concerning [word indistinct] by regional states and Afghan refugees that have been carried out in this regard. He expressed confidence that international efforts have gained considerable impetus toward [words indistinct] and providing the grounds for an intra-Afghan understanding, the restoration of peace, and the peaceful solution of the questions of Afghanistan as well as the resettlement of refugees and eliminating their needs as a result of the commencement of talks.

He also emphasized the good offices of the United Nations and that of the world peace-loving countries toward the realization of the five-point plan of the UN secretary general. He considered this as valuable, and welcomed the support given by the Republican Afghan state and government in this regard.

Reciprocally, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan expressed hope for the further movement of UN efforts on the path of the political solution of the questions of Afghanistan. He asked that, along with consistent efforts by the United Nations and international community concerning the political solution of the Afghan question, humanitarian help and economic measures for which our people and country are in dire need should be expanded in the present critical stage. Esteemed Khaleqyar once again expressed the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan and its govenment for the realization of the statement of the UN secretary general. He assured him that the people of Afghanistan are (?determined) that war should be ceased in our country as soon as possible, because the blood of the Afghans is being shed in war and their homes destroyed.

The esteemed prime minister asked the envoy and special representative of the UN secretary general to speed up and implement previous UN pledges and international help for the people of Afghanistan under the SALAM program and through UN establishments.

Benon Sevan had come to Kabul today in continuation of his working visits to the region.

[Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari at 1600 GMT on 7 Aug reports that Foreign Minister 'Abdol Wakil met Benon Sevan this afternoon in his office. The radio says that Wakil explained the recent political and military situation in the country and exchanged views with the under secretary general and special envoy of the UN secretary general about the results of the recent tripartite conference held in Islamabad with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Afghan opposition formations based in these countries.]

Rockets Kill 10 in Kabul, Mehterham, Jalalabad

LD0808094891 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0429 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 7, BAKHTAR—Ten civilians were killed and 12 others wounded as a result of the 10 ground to ground rockets fired by the extremists in the residential areas of Kabul, Mehterlam and Jalalabad cities last week (July 31-August 6, 1991), a concerned military source reported to BAKHTAR today.

During the mopping up operations of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan carried out in the Helmand, Lowgar, Laghman, Vardak and Nimruz Provinces 10 extremists were killed and 20 others were wounded.

A quantity of arms and ammunition including 120 cases of bullets, 100 ground to ground rockets, and a rocket launcher were seized and several of their hideouts destroyed, the source added.

Clashes which took place among the Gulbuddin, Jamiat, Sayaf and Mawlawipnabi groupings in the Kandahar and Nangarhar Provinces, 11 xtremists lost their lives and several others wounded.

Organs of the Kabul security force [word indistinct] seized 34 kgs of explosives imported by the extremists in the capital for organising subversive activities in this period.

Also, quantities of 1.3 kgs of hashish and 450 gr of opium as well as over 11,000 bushes of hashish were eliminated by the anti-crime squads of the Interior Ministry in the Kabul, Ghazni and Balkh provinces during the week.

Over 150 refugee families numbering 993 members returned from the alien lands to their homes in the Konduz, Badakhshan, [word indistinct] and Ghazni provinces, the source remarked.

Also 5 armed groups composed of 240 men stopped war against the government in Qandahar, Sar-e-Pol and Balkh provinces.

Notes numbers 2044-2053 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were handed over to the office of the UN secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan during the week too, the source concluded.

Bangladesh

Parliament Passes Referendum Bill

BK0708162591 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] tonight passed unanimously the Referendum Bill 1991. The bill seeks to ascertain the question through a referendum whether the president will assent any bill passed in the house under some provisions of the Constitution. Earlier, moving the bill for consideration, deputy leader of the house, Professor Badruddoja Chowdhury, said the passage of the bill is required to ascertain the question whether the president will assent to the historic Constitution 12th Amendment Bill passed in the house last night. He said if the bill is not passed, the constitution amendment bill will be invalid. He urged the all members, including those in the opposition, to pass it.

Speaking about the bill, leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina said in parliamentary system of government, a Parliament is the supreme body. In this system, provision for any referendum is not necessary, which is too costly. In spite of this, she said, we have no objection to its passage in the greater national interest. The house was in session when reports last came in.

Prime Minister's Address

BK0808055691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1445 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear countrymen, brothers and sisters. Peace be upon you. I am happy to be with you today at a historic moment in the life of our nation. Through substantial sacrifice and loss of life, the people's march toward democracy has ushered in a successful stage today that will remain inscribed with golden letters in the history of our nation. You know that the 11th and 12th constitutional amendment bills were passed by the great Parliament at midnight last night. This has (?laid the foundation) of democracy in Bangladesh. After 16 long years, the parliamentary system of government is going to be established, replacing the presidential system. The system will be formally restored, only after receiving your final mandate through a referendum in this regard, which will be held soon. The Bangladesh National Party [BNP] government has been established through the support of the sovereign people, and we therefore consider the people's verdict as the supreme in all matters. It needs to be mentioned here that the one-party rule and the presidential form of government was established in 1975. Later, President Ziaur Rahman replaced the one-party rule with a multiparty democracy. Following his footsteps, we are now establishing the parliamentary system of government.

Dear countrymen, you know that following the 27 February parliamentary elections, a number of questions emerged in the minds of people on the system of government, in view of the unbearable memory of the nine year's of autocratic rule. A need for reorganization of the system of government was felt. You certainly remember what I told you before. I told you that the great Parliament elected by you would make a decision on the system of government. Keeping this objective in view, we started extensive negotiations at various levels. After prolonged discussions and a thorough analysis of the needs of the hour and [words indistinct] of society, we were sure that almost everyone, both inside and outside the Parliament, was unanimous on changing the system of government. It was immediately after ascertaining everyone's opinion that the BNP decided to establish a parliamentary system of government by presenting a new constitutional amendment bill in the Parliament. On 2 July, we tabled the historic 11th and 12th constitutional amendment bills in the great Parliament. Following this, a select committee was formed unanimously in the Parliament to examine thoroughly the various aspects of these two bills along with five other bills moved by the opposition. The committee included nominated members of almost all parties. The select committee held a total of 36 sittings in 18 days and presented the bills in the Parliament with some unanimous amendments after extensive review of their various aspects. Then the bills were extensively discussed for five long days in the Parliament. At the conclusion of the discussions, the two historic bills were unanimously passed by Parliament at midnight last night, 6 August. The spontaneous jubilation on the passage of these bills constitutes a unique event in the history of our nation. The passage of the constitutional amendment bill after a prolonged discussion on it, and with a widespread consensus, is the first of its kind in the nation's history.

Dear countrymen, on this day let me remind you of our brave sons who made untiring efforts and sacrificed their lives for the sake of independence and democracy. I pray to God, the most compassionate, for the salvation of their souls. It is because of their boundless sacrifice and dedication to life that the golden gate of democracy is open to us today. The nation will remember them forever.

Dear countrymen, you know what sort of unbearable autocratic rule was established by the illegal usurper of power who overthrew the elected BNP government on 24 March 1982. The corrupt and unethical autocratic rulers destroyed all our democratic values and institutions and judicial system and laced the entire social fabric with the poison of corruption. The administrative system was made subservient to individual exploitation. The backbone of the national economy was broken by rampant looting of national resources. Against this backdrop, [words indistinct] popular movement and through free and impartial elections, we were entrusted with the responsibility of running the government. Thirty-nine days after the new government assumed office, a colossal

catastrophe befell our national life. It was a tough test for us to deal with a disaster that swept the coastal areas of the country. On the one hand, we had a ruined economy as a result of the autocratic rule, while on the other, we had scarce resources. In such a tragic situation, we, with the cooperation of all of you, dedicated everything at our disposal to deal with the crisis. As soon as the crisis was over, we began work on paving the constitutional way for our transition to parliamentary democracy in order to fulfill our pledge to the countrymen.

We already said it would take time. The BNP has never hesitated in the past to take any kind of constitutional or administrative step for the sake of democracy, stability, and above all the greater national interest, and we will not hesitate in the future either. The credit for whatever success we have achieved in fulfilling that pledge today is not due to us alone . The credit goes to all of you. I extend my heartfelt greetings and thanks to all respected members of Parliament, leaders of various political parties and others who contributed in the prolonged process of transition to democracy. I thank his excellency, Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who has made a unique contribution to this process of transition to democracy.

Dear countrymen, we are going to begin a new move effective today. Let us leave behind all the deficiencies and mistakes of the past and move forward. We have to move forward unitedly in the task of building a modern, prosperous Bangladesh. The time has come today to root out the corruption and chaos let loose in every level of society. Come, let us build a prosperous society for the future generation by properly fulfilling our responsibilities while remaining in our own positions.

In conclusion, I assure you that we will take appropriate and positive steps to solve problems created by the autocratic regime in all sectors, including employment, business, and education. Dear countrymen, I am giving a clarion call to all political parties and people to firmly establish the parliamentary system of government in our life as was yesterday unanimously mandated by the great elected Parliament, as the outcome of the popular movement.

May God take care of you. Long live Bangladesh.

India

Finance Minister Speaks on BCCI Affairs

BK0808042491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The finance minister has turned down a demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee inquiry into the affairs of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI]. He said the interests of the depositors in the Bombay branch of the bank will be protected as its assets appear to be sufficient to take care of its liabilities. The finance minister was giving clarification in the Rajya Sabha on his statement on the subject. He said the directorate of enforcement has recommended in 1986 the cancellation of the operation of the bank but the Reserve Bank after inspection concluded that the nature of irregularities was not serious enough to warrant such a step.

In a statement earlier, the finance minister had said there is no specific instance or information about payments made by the bank to Indian politicians and bureaucrats and financing terrorist organizations. The members were not satisfied with the finance minister's statement and alleged that it concealed facts. The Janata Dal member, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, demanded a parliamentary probe into the issue.

Legislators Demand Apology for Minister's Remarks

BK0808080891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] The proceedings in the Lok Sabha have been stalled and the house adjourned twice, for 40 minutes initially and again for one hour, amidst uproarious scenes. As soon as the house met this morning, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members were up on their feet demanding an apology from the civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, for his remarks allegedly describing their party as antinational. Even as their colleagues started shouting slogans, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana and Mr. Bhagwan Shanker Rawat said Mr. Scindia in his clarifications given in the house yesterday only repeated the same allegations. They said they will not allow the proceedings till the minister tenders an apology. The BJP members then trooped into the well of the house and started raising slogans. As uproarious scenes continued, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, abruptly announced the adjournment of the house till 11:45. When the house reassembled, BJP members persistently obstructed the proceedings of the house and indulged in slogan-shouting. The house was adjourned for the third time till 14:30 by Mr. Sharad Dighe who was in the chair.

Seven Security Force Personnel Killed in Punjab

BK0808032891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, seven security force personnel have been killed in a bomb blast in Amritsar District. According to an official spokesman, militants lobbed a bomb at a patrolling party in Tarn Taran town early this morning, killing six CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] and one policeman. The security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a massive manhunt for the culprits.

Militants Blow Up Jeep in Punjab

BK0808045091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0414 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 8 (AFP)—At least seven Indian security personnel died early Thursday when their patrol jeep hit a landmine in the town of Tarn Taran and exploded, senior officials said here.

The blast occurred around 1:00 A.M. when the armoured vehicle ran over the mine in front of a women's college in the centre of the small town of Taran Tarn, 25 kilometres from this holy Sikh city, they said.

The anti-tank mine placed in the middle of the road exploded with a deafening sound and wrecked the jeep carrying six paramilitary central reserve police force troopers and one police officer.

Five of the victims of the landmine blast died instantly while two others succumbed to their injuries in hospital, the officials said, adding that debris from the wrecked jeep flew hundreds of feet and landed in nearby houses.

The fuel tank of the vehicle ignited charring nearby areas following the blast, witnesses and residents said.

The powerful explosion also mutiliated the victims and police said it was difficult to identify the security staff, adding that one of them appeared to be a senior CRPF officer.

The security personnel were on a regular night patrol in Tarn Taran, the hub of Sikh militancy in Punjab where the separatists are battling for a homeland.

At least (?,957) people have died so far this year in Punjab violence linked to the bloody Sikh militant struggle.

A second bomb blast was reported from the Punjab town of Jhabbal around 8 A.M. in which at least three people including two policemen were injured.

Officials here said the bomb kept in a dustbin in Jhabbal, 30 kilometres from Amritsar and located in the county of Tarn Taran, exploded when one of the victims prodded the explosive device.

The blast occurred close to a police station, but was lower in intensity than the earlier landmine explosion in county-town, they said, adding that the three have been hospitalised with shrapnel wounds. So far none of the half a dozen Sikh separatist organisations in the northern state have claimed responsibility for the explosions, police said, adding that the attacks were "definitely engineered" by the militants.

The two explosions occurred hours before the scheduled visit of Punjab's new governor, Surendra Nath, to this frontier city of the northern Indian state.

Nath, a former Punjab police officer, is scheduled to visit the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, later Thursday in line with religious protocols followed by most state administrators on the day of assuming office.

He took charge as Punjab governor Wednesday.

IMF Terms, Government's 'Prime Task' Noted

BK0708095191 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Jul 91 p 8

[Article by Ram Jethmalani]

[Text] The Narasimha Rao Government's prime task would be to rescue the country from financial insolvency and the unfortunate masses from the quicksands of penury. It is a stupendous task. No political party should attempt to draw political mileage out of it. The insolvency has not arisen because of the installation of the new government. It existed quite some time before. The Finance Minister says he spotted it in 1988. That non-Congress parties got lost in other and often trivial and irrelevant isseus during the last election campaign was a failure of their strategy and the good luck of the Congress party. It brought the Congress as big dividends as the madness of the LTTE. Political parties must now cooperate and evolve an effective rational policy free from hangovers of the past. That is not easy because every political party has its ideological fixations preventing both correct diagnosis and discovery of the right cure. The Congress is no exception.

Mr Narasimha Rao is a clever and competent man. He is too intelligent not to understand that 45 years of Congress mismanagement have led the country into this mess. Yet he would not call it the failure or falsification of the Nehru model. He was at pains to assure Parliament the other day that the Congress will not deviate from the Nehru line. In a futile bid to reconcile this assertion with radical changes promised by his Finance Minister, he explained that the Nehru line is comprehensive enough to mean one thing today and its exact opposite the next day! When it was decided that the public sector will command the heights of the economy it was the Nehru line. When today the public sector has proved to be a den of corruption and incompetence and has to be auctioned away it still is the Nehru line. One would not grudge the Prime Minister his real or forced attitude of intellectual subservience but he would be well advised to keep it confined to party faithfuls and not inflict these utter inanities on audiences, not suffering from any such mental disability.

Nehru was big enough to confess the failure of his policies. After the Chinese debacle he publicly mused that he had been living in a world of illusions. His non-alignment lay in shambles. If he had lived long enough after that traumatic and humiliating experience he would have doubtless change course. But this could not be expected from his very small successors. The disastrous result has been a total cessation of introspection and re-evaluation so essential to sensible conduct of any foreign policy. Only the acuteness of the current economic devastation will prevent the same paralysis

speading to our economic ministries. The Prime Minister will do well by himself to recall Nehru's publicly-expressed doubts about his own policies. Speaking on planning in Parliament on December 11, 1963, he said:

"I begin to think more and more of Mahatma Gandhi's approach....I am entirely an admirer of the modern machine and I want the best machinery and the best technique, but taking things as they are in India, however rapidly we advance in the modern age, the fact remains that a large number of our people will not be touched by it for a considerable time. Some other method has to be evolved so that they become partners in production even though the production apparatus may not be efficient as compared to modern techniques."

When Boris Pasternak wrote his novel Dr Zhivago in the 50s it was condemned as an anti-Soviet work and Pasternak was expelled from the Union of the Writers of the USSR for its publication abroad. That was the Stalinist line. In 1988, the author was reinstated and the Soviet citizen was furnished a correct appraisal of the great work. This is Gorbachev's glasnost. Soviet ideologue Shatrov thus comments on the breath-taking change: "History has given us another chance and it is our sacred duty not to waste it, to do everything in our power to make the process of democratisation truly irreversible .... This irreversibility against a relapse into spirtual misery." It would be both dishonest and ridiculous to insist that both slavery and freedom are the same thing.

Today the Soviet Union and India find themselves in situations that are substantially similar. The former is seeking financial assistance from the leaders of the seven industrial powers with promise of a radical reform package of the Soviet economy even as the latter is unfolding its package of economic reform while negotiating for a loan from the International Monetary Fund. In their London declaration the G-7 Summit has advised the Soviet Union to follow the World Bank recommendations which include fiscal and monetary discipline and creation of the framework of a market economy. It has also hinted at changes in foreign policy around the world and shifting resources from military to civilian use. Mr. Gorbachev has agreed to comply and even sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. It may be that Mr Gorbachev feels coerced. Beggars can't be choosers. But practically everything suggested by the donors makes sound sense and except the drag of a puerile ideology there is nothing here that Gorbachev should not voluntarily embark upon for the salvation of the Soviet Union.

The IMF conditions have provoked a somewhat unbalanced attack in some quarters. Mr Chandra Shekhar is a good example. There is irrefutable evidence that World Bank proposals for restructuring the Indian economy have been with the Government of India since November last. It is impossible to believe that neither the then Prime Minister nor his Finance Minister noticed them. At least the Harvard professor in the Law and Commerce Ministry who meddled in almost everything else must have seen them. There was not even a murmur of protest against the proposals or a serious effort to have them modified by dialogue and discussion. The Chandra Shekhar Ministry had been left with bare 20 minutes of foreign exchange and only an emergency loan from the Japanese saved us from an extremely embarrassing situation. Since then we have been subsisting on loans raised by pledging our gold reserves. So low has sunk our credit- worthiness that the lenders were not satisfied with hypothecation of the gold. Gold had to be physically transported and placed in the actual custody of the lenders.

Critics of the IMF conditions must learn one basic fact. No desperate debtor can negotiate with his lenders on terms of absolute equality and freedom. Prestige is lost in penury and persistence in doctrinaire folly for long decades. It is lucky that the IMF is not a rapacious money-lender. It is not out to impoverish the borrower by practice of unconscionable usury. It wants to ensure—as indeed it is perfectly entitled to—that the monies it parts with do not go down the drain and the debtor does not suspend payment even before the due date like some of the Latin American countries have done in the past.

The Fund is the product of the Bretton Woods Conference of 1944. Its objects are to secure international monetary cooperation, stabilise exchange rates, and expand international liquidity. Members of the organisation are pledged to the ultimate elimination of exchange control and multiple exchange rates. Monetary authorities of the member countries are expected to remain in close and continuous liaison. The Fund is thus a convenient and effective instrument of consultative cooperation. It is an outstanding centre of research and statistical information on international monetary questions. The present Finance Minister has experience of its working and understandably he does not smell anything Machiavellian in its operations or dealings with India.

In a recent speech to the Lok Sabha BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee asked the Government not to clothe its decisional processes in a veil of secrecy. The Indian citizen is entitled to at least that much information which the 30 non-Indian Directors of the IMF have about India. Atalji could not be more right. Though this is not the occasion to argue for the enactment of a comprehensive Freedom of Information Act for India, yet in its own interest the Government must do nothing to conceal reality from the people. Secrecy in this vital matter will only create the totally unfounded suspicion that the IMF loan means the end of India's economic and political sovereignty. If the Opposition stops telling the Government that Congress policies alone have made the IMF loan necessary the Government will be more open and forthright.

The first step which the Government has to take is basically a moral one. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao more than his Finance Minister must openly acknowledge the intimate connection between financial insolvency and insolvency of human character. That the volume of corruption must be reflected in the price of

commodities is an economic truth which unfortunately they do not teach at any formal school of economics. This is more easily learnt in the effective school of public experience. It is very nearly true to say that Ministers no longer make policy. They instead make money. With the exciting example set by their political masters, bureaucrats cannot for long lag behind. Both must then enter into unholy wedlock with corrupt businessmen trying to out-smart their competitors and manipulate government policies for the satisfaction of their individual ends. The only solution in this situation is that bureaucrats and politicians must forthwith be diverted of control over the economic process. The entire machinery of licences, permits and quotas has to be completely demolished. The late Rajiv Gandhi in his 1985 speech in Bombay had warned that there is no protection when the fence starts eating the crop. It is a paradox that Indians succeed the world over but Indian does not. The truth is that all talent is neutralised by corruption. An Expert Committee of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry has just submitted a fairly comprehensive and useful report to the Government on this topic. Each one of its suggestions must be accepted and implemented.

Then there is the white elephant called the Public Sector. The Economic Survey just published by Government contains a devastating confession. Though couched in polite and somewhat misleading officialese its message is loud and clear.

"1.4. Even though the output and the growth targets of Seventh Plan were exceeded, a significant imbalance appeared in the pattern of financing of the Plan, with the contribution of resources from Public Sector savings falling far short of the target. The deterioration in the savings performance of the public sector, which has put the planning process under considerable strain, is an important factor underlying the persistent fiscal imbalances."

This white elephant will remain an eternal drag on our fiscal resources unless promptly exorcised. It will not be easy because behind the white elephant stands a formidable array of corrupt bureaucrats who, over the years, have developed a vested interest in the opportunities for lot that the Public Sector presents in profusion.

Government needs to be supported in repelling a vicious criticism of the IMF orchestrated mainly by the Left that it encroaches on India's sovereignty in the matter of defence and foreign policy. The argument is wholly without merit. As a member of the United Nations India is committed to renunciation of war as an instrument of foreign policy. War is too costly an affair for Third World countries. And yet there are more wars in the Third World than anywhere else. The Fund associated with the United Nations cannot possibly advance monies to be used in maintaining a needlessly expensive military apparatus. This is not to suggest that military preparedness to meet foreseeable threats of aggression should be diluted or abandoned. On the other hand, it only makes for statesmanship if causes of friction leading to war are eliminated and economic resources diverted and applied to furtherance of the Directive Principles of the Indian contitution. To save money from war and apply it to peace is sage advice. Only a fool will suspect in it any compromise of sovereignty. Both India and Pakistan must perceive the mutual advantages of peace and friendship. The Kashmir problem must be rescued from the tentacles of past errors and futile policies. The IMF and prominent contributors to its funds should be able to exert a helpful and constructive pressure in this direction. Our politicans must stop denouncing the healthy pressure as an imperialist device.

At this moment it is not known whether the IMF has gently hinted at Indians restraining their reporductive urge. It should be another welcome point of pressure. The Chinese have overtaken us in economic advance substantialy because they have achieved zero population growth. The economist in Mr Manmohan Singh could not have forgotten good old Malthus. At the risk of being called hard-hearted he prohibited charity to the poor. A man for whom "at nature's mighty feast there is no cover" might be kept alive by charity, but since he would then propagate, such charity was only cruelty in disguise, was his compelling logic. We cannot afford to ignore the Malthusian nightmare.

Iran

Tehran Reports UK Hostage's Release

LD0808101991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Summary] The Islamic Jihad organization announced today in Beirut that it has released John McCarthy, the British hostage, with a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. REUTER, which reported this, added: The UN secretary general said today that high-ranking officials of that organization have gone to the necessary points this morning to assist with the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

Two days ago, the Islamic Jihad Organization announced that in the next 48 hours it would send an envoy to the United Nations bearing a very important message.

Reportage on Indonesian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets Velayati

LD3107113291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas exchanged views on bilateral relations, important regional and international issues, and the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization at his meeting today with our foreign minister.

At this meeting Mr. Alatas expressed interest in expanding bilateral ties, saying that his country attaches special importance to this issue. He then added: Indonesia and Iran are developing countries, which can complement each other; toward that end we are ready to take more serious strides. He then praised the important and valuable role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in achieving stability and calm in the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's interest in expanding ties with Indonesia, Mr. Velayati said: Being fully aware of the importance of the Persian Gulf and its role in the world, we consistently follow up the important point that the security of the Persian Gulf region must be ensured by the regional countries. We hope to be able to accomplish that important issue through the cooperation of the regional countries.

Mr. Velayati also said that the Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded, through cooperation with Pakistan, in organizing a joint meeting between the mujahidin stationed in the two countries for the first time since the beginning of the history of the struggle of the people of Afghanistan. He said: We hope that this new measure will play its role quite well in solving the problem of Afghanistan.

Gulf, Afghanistan Discussed

LD0108043191 Tehran IRNA in English 1252 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas today called Iran and Indonesia as two developing countries which can be a complement to each other, and said that Jakarta was ready to take more serious steps towards this goal.

Talking to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Alatas who arrived here this morning, lauded Iran's important role in establishing stability and calm in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. Indonesia attaches "great importance" to its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, he added.

Velayati in response said the Islamic Republic as part of its foreign policy towards Muslim countries and the Third World was willing to expand relations with Indonesia which is the world's most populous Muslim state. On the situation in the Persian Gulf, Velayati said in view of the region's sensitivity and its role in the world, Iran strongly favoured maintenance of security by the littoral states alone. "We hope to fulfil such an important task through cooperation among the countries of the region," he added. On the Afghan issue, Velayati said for the first time in the dozen year old struggle of the Afghan people, the Islamic Republic in conjuction with Pakistan managed to hold a joint session with Afghan mojahedin groups based in both the countries. "We hope that this new step can help solve the plight of Afghanistan," said Velayati who returned to Tehran today from the two-day quadrilateral talks in Islamabad.

Meets Other Cabinet Officials

LD0108140491 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Ways of expanding economic and industrial ties between Tehran and Jakarta were discussed by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh-Kho'i here today.

The two also reaffirmed their determination to take joint decisions in stabilizing the oil price during the forthcoming meeting of the 13-state Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Aqazadeh said it was necessary for oil producing states especially OPEC members to increase their cooperation.

Alatas who arrived here Tuesday also met Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji today, and exchanged views on commercial and economic ties between the two countries.

The proposed cooperation between the Kish development organization and Indonesian companies was brought up at the meeting, with Vahaji pointing out the various fields of joint investment such as light industries on the three free trade zones of Qeshm Island, Kish Island and Chahbahar port city.

He also called on Muslim states to set up an Islamic common market in view of the fact that they are among the richest countries of the world.

Alatas welcomed Vahaji's proposal on establishment of a common market by Muslim states.

Lebanese Clerics Meet Interior Minister in Syria

NC0808065891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Members of the Lebanese Muslim 'ulema grouping have met with Interior Minister Nuri at the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in Damascus. The leader of the group delivered a report on the situation in his country, noting: Any compromise with the Zionist regime is doomed to failure. He added: We assure his eminence the great leader, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the heroic Iranian nation that the Muslim nations of the region will not allow the U.S. plots and the Zionists' nefarious schemes to be carried out.

For his part, Mr. Nuri said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will defend the aspirations of the Muslim nations of the region with all its might. The interior minister added that when it comes to foreign policy, the Vali-ye Amr-e Muslimin [guardian of the Muslims' cause], His Eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, stresses the defense of the hallowed aspirations of the Palestinian nation above everything else.

Cuban Deputy Health Minister Meets Officials

NC0608055391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Iran and Cuba have agreed to cooperate in the exchange of doctors and other medical experts, scientific information, training, and medical technology. This was announced yesterday during a meeting between the Cuban first deputy health minister and our health minister, Dr. Malekzadeh.

During another meeting with Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, the Cuban official called for the expansion of bilateral relations.

Minister Claims Two Recent Fires 'Suspicious'

LD0708131691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A large exhibition of items discovered by the personnel of Greater Tehran security zone was visited yesterday by the Interior Minister, a number of Islamic Consultative Majlis deputies, and other officials nearly four months after the merger of the law enforcement forces across the country. [passage omitted]

Concerning the recent fires in Tehran, Minister of the Interior Nuri said: The three recent cases of fire arose under normal circumstances as a result of negligence. However, two of the cases are suspicious. Investigation is continuing and the people will be informed of the result in due course. [passage omitted]

Tehran Daily on U.S. 'Psychological' Campaigns

NC0508204591 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 20 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[Second in series of editorials by M. Qums: "Disarmament and Psychological Warfare"]

[Excerpts] Control and repression does not merely mean use of military means, but implies more complicated and indirect ways as well. The proliferation of such activities assumed the greatest importance.

The characteristic traits of the eighties, especially with regard to the movements in the Third World, naturally brought about a change in U.S. strategies. [passage omitted]

Islamic countries are under the effects of the dawn of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and realized that the only concept that can replace nationalism in the struggle for attaining human and national identity is the regaining of an Islamic identity. In this rediscovery, it is possible to see values which provide a return to self-respect, preservation of a real national identity.

Even the non-Muslim countries of the Third World have not been able to remain unaffected by the effects of this movement, as the Islamic movement is extensive and based on a broad perspective. Independence, freedom, and the regaining of national identity are the three main factors which are not only coveted by Muslims, but by all the tyrannized peoples of the world, who see their salvation in the fruition of this concept. [passage omitted]

The events in the Middle East will form the picture of the future of the world. Is the importance of this region merely hidden in its oil and gas? If we believe this then we have certainly digressed from our path.

Oil and gas certainly have their own decisive importance, but what is more fundamental than oil and gas is the powerful potential of Islam, which has the power of guiding a vast spectrum of developments.

For this reason, the Middle East has two weapons, military and economic, and the armor of faith and an awakened conscience in the people. Is the United States merely seeking the military disarmament of the people? All the expenditures it incurred the Persian Gulf war culminated in driving home the fact that the extent of the U.S. economic and political domination expanded.

Military disarmament is a cover for broader objectives. This is mere psychological warfare for inflicting more contempt on the Muslims of the Middle East. Military disarmament is for crushing their determination, identity, and values.

For people who have faced contempt, aimlessness and disillusionment will certainly have no use for known or unknown military weapons. One should not permit this to happen. The experience of the Islamic Revolution and its repercussions manifested themselves in the intifadah and the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, showing that military weapons are not the deciding factor in a struggle against domineering powers.

The real weapon is faith, determination, and the will of the people, to which the most powerful and advanced military arsenal and ordnance is incapable of giving a suitable response. What the United States wants today is to shatter the determination and the regained identity of the Muslim people of the Middle East. On this basis it wants to establish a new world order. There is no doubt that the mission of Muslims is to exercize greater vigilance and a resistance against this psychological and propagandistic war at this historical juncture.

Commentary Criticizes Foreign Missions Activity

NC0208195591 Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Jul 91 p 12

[Second of three-part commentary by 'Alireza 'Abbasi: "The Uneven Path of Diplomacy"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Maintaining diplomatic relations is more than just a question of operating embassies and paying officials visits. The great diversity

of cultural, national, and religious traditions and of political and economic structures offers a boundless opportunity for us to extend our diplomatic relations, contrary to the impression the great powers have sought to create through their domination over all aspects of life in various countries.

If the political determination exists and if popular sovereignty is ensured among Third World countries, this kind of cooperation can pave the way for independence and liberation from the hegemony of the great powers, particularly the United States.

Our embassies must be staffed by people who can understand the realities of the countries to which they are assigned and who can, on the basis of adequate information, formulate a framework for mutually beneficial and durable relations.

Unfortunately most of our representations abroad still fall short of this mark and even degenerated to the level of travel agents for various officials despite the positive steps taken in this direction.

Some responsibility for this situation must lie with the officials who embark on repeated trips of minimal value and who disregard the advice of our foreign missions. These trips thus not only take up a good deal of our missions' time, but they often mean that something that could have been a source of bilateral political or economic benefit becomes a problem in our country's foreign relations.

This may not seem very important to the departments which are constantly sending officials of various levels abroad, but it should be given serious attention and forcefully addressed by the Foreign Ministry.

Today, when the president underlines that the head of a foreign mission represents our system, we expect that these missions will carry out their duties with due attention and vigor and will refrain from anything that does not benefit our country. [passage omitted]

Our enemies unfortunately seem to be much more painstaking than we in pursuing their ulterior motives. Just look at the activities of British diplomats in the brief time since our relations with that country were resumed. Even before they were posted to Iran, the British diplomats studied all the earlier communications from the British Embassy and officials from all the embassy's departments are now frequently seen in all our ministries and organizations. Of course, it can be said that they are merely fulfilling certain obligations and their intentions are questionable.

Our embassies must also establish the necessary contacts with political, scientific, and economic figures and explore the scope for real cooperation. The last three parts of the president's speech at the recent seminar on this subject highlight the importance of this issue.

ICO Meeting Urged To Oppose U.S., Israel

LD0608162991 Tehran IRNA in English 1416 GMT 6 Aug 91

["World Muslims Expect OIC Meet To Foil U.S. Designs, Says Daily"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—The Islamic world is currently going through one of its most crucial junctures in history, and its honour, glory and destiny depend upon decisions adopted by the ongoing foreign ministerial meeting of the Organizaion of the Islamic Countries (OIC) in Istanbul, said the Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Tuesday.

"The meeting must take firm and clear-cut stands vis-a-vis the treacherous plan to legitimize the Zionist usurption of Palestine," said the editorial, and rejected claims by the Western and reactionary mass media that the Istanbul conference would prepare grounds for the success of the U.S. peace plan for the Middle East.

"Any compromise with or flexibility towards the plan is considered high treason and collaboration with the U.S." warned JOMHURI.

Stressing that the Palestinian issue cannot be "simply overlooked", it said the Istanbul session, could well prove "decisive" with direct and positive impacts on the future of the Islamic world, Palestine and the regional states.

The editorial cautioned that enemies will not hesitate to inflict "heavier blows" on Islam if they become certain that their anti-human efforts would eventually and under specific conditions be accepted by the Islamic countries.

The foreign ministerial meeting should be assured of support from the world's one billion Muslims "provided it takes the right decisions," it said.

In this context the daily recalled the "clear-cut and decisive" stand of the OIC meeting in Saudi Arabia regarding the late Imam Khomeyni's edict against the Indian-born British apostate Salman Rushdie which was backed by the world Muslims who acted in a unified manner against the enemies of Islam.

"The Islamic world expects the Istanbul session to act in similar manner and adopt firm and solid stands", JOMHURI concluded.

U.S. Veto of UK Aircraft Sales to Iran Viewed

NC0208114891 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 24 Jul 91 p 1

[Editorial: "A 'System of Contacts' in the Region"]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. There are news reports that America vetoed the sale of 50 passenger aircraft by Britain to Iran. At the same time, Washington's ambassador to Kuwait said in an

interview that Iran is considered one of the elements for establishing regional security and that Iran's role in Persian Gulf security cannot be ignored.

The American ambassador to Kuwait added: Regional security needs increased cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members and other regional countries, and to achieve this, cooperation pacts among the GCC members and the United States, Egypt, and other allied governments must be signed. A system of contacts and coordination with other regional countries on this also must be developed.

America's refusal to allow "British Aerospace" to sell 50 passenger planes to Iran continues the economic sanctions against Iran. The excuse that some of the spare parts of these British-manufactured airplanes are American is nothing new. America previously announced it would oppose the sale, through any country, of passenger planes manufactured with American spare parts.

America's economic and political pressure through the sanctions against Iran has continued for years. Despite the fact that Iran's relations with Europe improved, we can see clear examples of such pressure on countries such as Germany and France to prevent the closing of economic agreements.

Nevertheless, this pressure—from the point of view of American interests—can be redirected under certain conditions. The remarks by the American ambassador to Kuwait on ensuring regional security and on creating contacts and coordination among the GCC members, America, Egypt, and other regional countries is—in the view of political observers—the imposition of policies in the region through economic pressure.

Iran currently considers regional cooperation with the participation of Persian Gulf littoral states the only path to regional security and it considers the presence of world powers an element upsetting that security. It appears Washington is trying, by creating a "type of connection" in the region, to justify its own presence while preparing the basis for the presence of nonlittoral countries as well. If this goal is achieved, the region will fall under the control of foreign forces, forever.

Editorial Urges Factions To Avoid Differences

NC0408122191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Wisdom and Expediency"]

[Text] The headlines of one of the evening newspapers in Tehran on the last day of the past week reported a dispute had begun between two rival factions over the fourth Majlis elections. The report itself we were aware of, but the fact it was printed in that newspaper with the title in bold print spanning seven columns and with the complete text of the news and clarifications on the first page projected it as a victory for one of the factions.

It would not be surprising if today or tomorrow one of the morning newspapers were to play a similar role for the other faction that was played by this evening newspaper and print a riposte from its own arsenal aimed at the other faction, and this would continue....

The stationing of the U.S. and European allied forces at Turkey's Incirlik base and the start of the rapid-deployment force's [RDF] activities at this base, the sale of 80 warplanes by the United States to Turkey and the cresting of hypocritical slogans about disarming the region, a $10-billion aid package from the United States to the usurpist Jerusalem regime, in tandem with the preliminaries for the implementation of a second Camp David accord, the contemptible compromise of the Arab reactionary leaders toward the Zionist regime, the U.S. opposition to the sale of British and French passenger planes to the Islamic Republic of Iran and similar events—each of these constitute a danger knell for the nations of the region.

These are all part of a treacherous plot against Islam and the Islamic movement, which is being hatched at a time when inside the country—which is a base for the world of Islam—efforts are being made for the revolutionary forces to clutch at each other's throats.

Therefore, the question that arises is: When the "Islamic Republic of Iran" is the true base for the Islamic movements in the region and for the world of Islam, which is the target of all the plots of the United States and its allies, is it lawful and wise for the revolutionary forces inside this base of world Islam to be at logger heads with one another?

Today, all arrangements have been made for the official recognition of the despotic Zionist regime by the Islamic governments. The next step will be, " Your borders, O Israel—from the Euphrates to the Nile" [preceding slogan in Arabic] In such circumstances, instead of shouting slogans against the United States and Israel, are mutual attacks permitted as lawful and wise?

The social and economic problems of the country are so numerous that they only can be solved through unity between all the forces and the multilateral efforts and unanimity of all factions. In such a situation, is the generating of factional discord by various means a wise measure and in conformity with the interests of Islam and the nation?

If we wish to be optimistic, the roots of the factional strife can be traced to the fact that each faction believes that if it does not have all the matters in its own hands, and if in the Majlis it does not have an absolute majority, then the country, the Revolution, and Islam will be threatened with a serious danger! This is a factional concept which is not all acceptable by the nation.

Thus, the roots of factional differences will also deteriorate if we do not become so self-righteous and do not consider ourselves at a par with Islam and the Revolution.

The coming months are the most sensitive of the present juncture in the history of the region, and harmony, unanimity, and peace among the factions in the Islamic Republic of Iran are mandatory and every measure by any faction or official against these factors will be considered as unlawful and opposed to the interests of Islam, the Islamic ummah, and the Iranian nation.

At present it is time to direct all our slogans against the United States and all pens should be used to depict the daily-increasing danger of the cancerous tumor of Zionism. This will not be possible unless everyone acts with wisdom and expediency.

Any laxity in this duty, deliberate or not, assists the enemies of Islam and may God Almighty not inflict such adversity on any of the forces loyal to the Islamic Revolution. Amen.

Clandestine Beam Reports on Operation in Soltani

NC0708065591 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Our correspondent at the party committee in northern Kordestan reported that in implementation of their decision to honor the memory of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan members who were martyred in 1370 [year beginning 21 March 1991] by launching operations against the clerical regime's suppressive and criminal forces, the peshmerga of the DPIK's (Ageri) force selected Soltani village in the (Soma) area, the scene of frequent enemy movements, as the target of one such attack.

After carefully reconnoitering the scene and planning the operation, the brave children of our people took up positions on all heights around the village where the enemy was expected to appear, thus taking control of several square kilometeres of territory.

On the morning of 29 July, the followers of the glorious martyrs continued the path of the eternal Qasemlu and captured Sergeant Second Class Sergeant 'Abbas Allahyari as he was traveling to a base in Hasani village. At 1630 on the same day they ambushed a so-called task force from the enemy's corps of engineers, which had been carrying out survey work for the construction of a highway and the establishment of a base in the heights around Hasani and Soltani villages. In this first attack by the peshmerga, the enemy's advance unit came under accurate and heavy fire and in the ensuing brief clash, a number of the mercenaries were killed and their vehicles seized.

The mercenaries stationed at the Soltani sentry post, located 500 meters from the site of the ambush, panicked when they learned of the peshmerga's presence. They requested reinforcements, lacking the courage to confront the peshmerga and assist the trapped forces themselves.

Reinforcements from the Chamean Gendarmerie Battalion rushed to the scene in three private vehicles at 1830. Unaware that the democratic pershmergas had gained full control of the area, they ran into another ambush by the DPIK's brave forces. In a coordinated operation, the brave warriors of Kordestan, who have learned the lesson of resistance in its high mountains, subjected them to such fierce shelling that some of them immediately retreated to the base in Hasani village. The peshmerga seized the three vehicles and thus consolidated their control of the area.

The despicable enemy, quaking with fear before the peshmerga, then resorted to heavy weapons and subjected the peshmerga positions to fierce artillery and mortar shelling. The peshmerga, however, proceeded to carry out their operation as planned.

According to information we have received, the peshmerga killed or wounded at least 35 members of the clerical regime's forces and captured three mercenaries during the operations. The peshmerga were able to identify 23 of the bodies, which were strewn all over the battlefield. [passage omitted]

Four residents of Soltani village were also killed during the fighting between the peshmerga and the clerical regime's mercenary forces. [passage omitted]

The booty taken by the brave warriors of the DPIK's (Ageri) force during the operation in (Soma) area in northern Kordestan is as follows:

1. A Toyota car with license plate number 8458/2;
2. Two Nissan cars;
3. A Land Rover with license plate number 41/12;
4. One G-3 magazine;
5. Seventeen G-3 rifles;
6. One Kalashnikov rifle;
7. Two (?PRC-777) wireless units;
8. One [word indistinct] wireless unit;
9. One surverying camera;
10. 85 G-3 and Kalashnikov loaders; and
11. 2,000 G-3 bullets.

After identifying the bodies of the dead, collecting their booty, and rounding up their captives, the brave warriors of the DPIK's (Ageri) force decided to proceed to the base in Soltani village and punish the mercenaries who had taken up positions there. They thus took up positions at strategic points around the base and resumed shelling it at midnight. As a result of the shelling, which lasted for 90 minutes, a number of [word indistinct] and bunkers were completely destroyed and the mercenaries suffered heavy casualties and damage.

The brave men of the glorious (Ageri) force, the democratic smashers of the enemy in northern Kordestan, then left the scene of the fighting in triumph accompanied by their booty and prisoners. They continued patrolling the area.

ICO Urged To Address Jerusalem 'Liberation'

LD0708040991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1656 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The foreign ministers of 45 Islamic countries assembled in Istanbul to debate and solve Islam's problems as U.S. efforts to bring about a compromise in the 45-year-old Middle East crisis go through their last preliminary stages and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in his sixth Middle East trip—to North African countries—completes the last minute coordination work necessary to convene the so-called peace conference.

That the two events are taking place simultaneously gives an added importance and a specific sensitivity to the current ICO meeting in that it places a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the Islamic countries' top foreign policymakers. Naturally, it is the Islamic world's right to expect the ICO to solve the Middle East crisis and to liberate Jerusalem rather than expect this from the so-called U.S.-sponsored peace conference, particularly since U.S. performance in recent years, including during the Persian Gulf oil war, has left no doubt in the minds of Muslim peoples worldwide that Washington's peace conferences only serve to guarantee the Zionist regime's existance and to ensure its domination over the Islamic countries and their cultural and economic resources. [passage omitted]

Muslim countries can only see the present U.S. moves as an all-embracing international plot against the emergent power of Islam, which is why the Islamic world expects the foreign ministers of Islamic countries to adopt a decisive stand and prevent any kind of compromise over the sacred city of Jerusalem and the Islamic territory of Palestine. Moreover, placing the crisis within the narrow framework of Arabism and nationalism clearly helped obstruct the liberation of Jerusalem in that it bestowed the primary responsibility for liberating occupied territories on the frontline Arab countries neighboring occupied Palestine and in that it gave that responsibility to other Arab countries. This factor reduced the current confrontation to within the confines of the Arab-Israeli struggle.

Under existing sensitive conditions, the balance of power between the Arab countries and Israel was upset as a result of Washington's Persian Gulf crisis policies and as a result of the decision to use such a situation to legitimize Israel's aggressions and occupations in a so-called peace conference through the Eastern and Western powers. Today, the authors of the Muslim countries' and ICO's foreign policies must adjust that imbalance and place the crisis in its natural framework, namely that it is a confrontation between Islam and infidelity. Based on that policy, they must draw up and implement an all-embracing policy for confrontation with the Zionist occupiers and its Western supporters.

Islamic political experts believe Arab negotiating teams at the so-called U.S. peace conference are unable to handle the Jerusalem negotiation issue because of its Islamic characteristics and its spiritual importance to Muslims. That it belongs to all Muslims proves that the responsibility for its liberation falls on the Islamic countries' shoulders. The same experts maintain that the Islamic countries' failure to mount serious confrontation in that crisis and the Zionist regime's continued occupation—especially if these aggressions are legitimized by the compromising peace conference—could bring serious reactions from the world's Muslim nations and could trigger a new wave of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Islamic world, especially among the Arabs. The Arab and Islamic governments obviously cannot keep themselves away from the unforeseen consequences of these reactions.

Muslim's mounting hatred for the United States and its anti-Islamic policies could make Washington's political movement in the region very difficult, especially if there is a compromise. However, other experts believe that the mix of foreign ministers at the Istanbul conference does not encourage expectations of a principled stand, a stand which is in line with the needs of the time. The same experts believe that the hope for decisive action by the conference is dim because of the presence of the foreign ministers of 21 Muslim Arab countries—who look positively to U.S. efforts aimed at compromise—among the overall 45 participating foreign ministers, as well as the fact that the liberation of Jerusalem does not enjoy priority in their foreign policy guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only one to give priority to the liberation of the sacred Jerusalem in its foreign policy, and that has been the main line of the Iranian team at that conference. Yet, decisive stages clearly need decisive action. Responsibility for adopting such decisions falls on the shoulders of Muslims and Islamic governments.

Editorials on Government, Society, Policies

Urges Attention to Problems

NC0508122191 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 23 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[First in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpt] Prologue: The Islamic Republic of Iran's political and economic life and its general policy are based on values that help our society deal with any kind of problem. No one can deny that a healthy society—that is one which respects the people's views and wishes—should be able to seek solutions to its problems without any fuss. Our society today is witnessing developments which require our full attention. A correct analysis of problems and solutions can contribute to the government's progress and the public's understanding. Thus, extreme positions must be avoided. Also, it is a national

and Islamic duty to avoid chaos, commotion, and threats. All are weapons commonly used to impose views. We should operate on the premise that those who take up their pens to discuss and analyze problems harbor no evil intentions. If this is not the case however, and if it is felt that their goal is merely to deceive the public and to aggravate the social atmophere, then no value or respect can be attached to these people. The government, the leader, and the country belong to everyone. No one can claim to be their custodians. Many of those who take up their pens do so with no objective but providing a sincere description of problems and promoting this country's grandeur. The fact that these people belong to various political factions should not be a reason for creating commotion and resorting to threats. Unfortunately, the past few years witnessed the unfolding of a very negative trend whereby writers, speakers, and politicians from various factions resort to weapons that are unprincipled, illogical, anti-Islamic, and antisocial in a bid to eliminate their opponents from the scene.

One of these weapons—and clearly a most unfavorable one—is that of opposition to the government. Fortunately this is not the policy that the leader and the president pursue! There are those, however, who are more Catholic than the pope and who try to force this view on the people.

The mass media must tolerate the views of others and refrain from using these wrong weapons of propaganda. It must create the proper climate for an exchange of views, as an analysis of problems benefits both the people and the government. [passage omitted]

Explores Role of Mass Media

NC0608064191 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 24 Jul 91 p 1

[Second in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpts] All countries base their national goals on their people's shared linguistic, cultural, historical, and religious traditions. Promoting national self-awareness in all fields requires the use of various tools, and the timely, accurate, and purposeful dissemination of information can play an important role in building the character of individuals and preparing a society to accept plans and programs. [passage omitted]

The Islamic revolution came to change the values of Iran's 2,500-year-old society and our society had no difficulty accepting the new values in principle. What is important, however, is how these values are inculcated and how they are applied. We do not intend to analyze every problem separately here; rather, we wish to determine where the roots of our problems today lie and to recognize what values are being instilled in our society. No one can deny that when the structure and values of a society begin to change as the result of a revolution or reforms, the role of the mass media takes on additional importance, because it is the mass media that should take the first steps toward achieving national goals. These steps are, first, strengthening self-reliance and, second, facilitating society's progress along the road of reform. Self-reliance is a key principle that concerns the entire social spectrum. Every social change is based on special values and society must adapt itself to these values. The Islamic Revolution upset 2,500 years of monarchical values. It replaced dependence with independence, suppression with freedom, and materialism with morality.

Does the same apply to our deeds? There is no doubt that every revolution should be assessed within the framework of its unique conditions and potentials, and the Islamic Revolution has indeed seen movement toward the fulfillment of the people's genuine values. Time is needed, however, for these values take root in a society, particularly one which, like ours, had long lived under a complicated political-cultural system. This is the test facing our society today.

Calls for Economic Independence

NC0608100191 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 8

[Third in a series of editorials by M. Qums: "The Government, Society, and Policymaking"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Islamic revolution replaced dependence with an independence that is more than just an empty slogan. Realizing the full dimensions of this independence is not, however, a quick or easy process, and it is the direction of this process that matters most. Certain aspects of independence can be achieved fairly quickly, but others take more time. The political, economic, and cultural realms are the areas of greatest interest when we wish to assess our progress in achieving independence. When we assess a government's (that is, a revolutionary government's) performance and programs, we should do so in light of the criteria used in compiling these programs. We do this not just to praise or criticize or to try to exert pressure, because, as we noted at the outset, the role of the mass media at this stage is to help society gain the self-reliance necessary to promote national objectives, and thus everything that is said or written should serve this end. International relations bring with them many complications, but they are vital to a society. We have reached the stage today where real independence cannot be achieved if our economy operates in isolation and is geared entirely toward self-sufficiency, and indeed, such a goal is neither practical nor desirable. Technology, investment, and qualified manpower are the three main ingredients for economic progress. No Third World country possesses sufficient reserves of all three, and so it must maintain relations with other countries and take its place on the complicated international stage. Another important element to consider in this context is the formulation of policy, as it is policy that defines the links among these ingredients and ultimately determines the shape of a

society's and system's economy. It is here that we wish to focus our attention. If we wish to chart a course for economic independence, we must have an independent structure. Our society today needs more technology, more qualified workers, and more capital. Achieving real economic independence means that we must maintain relations with other countries to gain access to them. What is important here is the policy we adopt. In general, we can say that some negative repercussions are inevitable due to the problems inherent in maintaining the international relations our society needs. These problems certainly should be examined, but, unfortunately, the subtleties involved are at times intentionally or unintentionally ignored and certain natural negative repercussions are portrayed as deliberate failures and used as a way to settle group or individual scores. We must try to avoid such a mistaken approach as far as possible. [passage omitted]

Our society today has no industry which is developed enough to supply all we need for our reconstruction and development, such as iron, cement, aluminum, steel, glass, and so on. We need imports to manufacture these items, and this means we must export capital. This is why the logic of policymaking dictates that a country's industrial policy be geared toward developing domestic manufacturing. This raises another question, though, and that is whether the goal should be mere domestic self-sufficiency or something more. In other words, should we seek to raise our economic potential through exports? The country's present policy does not give any clear answer to this question.

Economic Statistics for Past Year Reported

LD0608144491 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug 6, IRNA—The national expenditures in Iran per production factors, that is national revenue, in the calendar year 1368 (March 21, 89-March 20, 90) was rials 24,080.1 billion, up by 22.2 per cent as compared to the previous year.

A report issued by Iran statistical center here today said that during the same calendar year the ultimate consumption of households was rials 19,043.1 billion, up by 23.6 per cent as compared to the previous year, while that of the public sector dropped to rials 2,527.1 billion that is down by ten per cent as compared to the previous year. In that year the share of the public sector in national gross expenditures was 9.1 per cent.

Fixed deposits during the same period grew by 21.8 per cent to rials 4,616.3 billion.

In that year the total direct tax revenue of the governmnent was up by 64.1 per cent and the total aids by the government was up by 58.1 per cent as compared to the previous year, said the report.

Clandestine Reports Shelling of Kordish Villages

NC0108084891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 31 Jul 91

[Text] According to a report from the party [Democratic Party of Kordestan] committee in Baneh District, the anti-popular Islamic Republic regime fiercely shelled the villages of (Sucher) and (Kelarash) in Baneh for three consecutive days, that is on 23, 24, 25 July, with heavy- and medium-caliber weapons. Massive material losses were inflicted on the residents of this district as a result of this continous and heavy shelling. The regime's firing on this district took place at a time when thousands of Iraqi Kurdish refugees were camped in the area.

Commentary Deplores Treatment of Baluchis

NC0408092691 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Dastardly Efforts To Repress the Baluchi People"]

[Excerpts] The visit by the foreign minister of the mullahs' government to Pakistan was ostensibly for promoting cooperation and understanding between the two Governments of Iran and Pakistan, and for an exchange of views to seek a suitable solution for ending the 13-year-long civil war in Afghanistan. But the unstated aspect of this visit, which can be perceived, is that an antipopular and shameless plot has been hatched against the armed, freedom-seeking resistance by our Baluchi compatriots.

On 17 July the Iranian ambassador in Islamabad met the Pakistani foreign minister and arranged the preliminaries for meetings between the Iranian foreign minister and high-level Pakistani officials. Prior to these meetings, the commander of the Islamic regime's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] visited Pakistan and met high-level military officials. He discussed mutual cooperation on security issues.

Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the repressive IRGC, said that the objective of this visit was to ensure the security of the Eastern borders, especially in Sistan va Baluchestan Province, and to combat insurgents—a term which the shah, as well as the mullahs, used for counterrevolutionaries—and the extradition of Iranians who have escaped to Pakistan. The people targeted by such an unholy plot are the Baluchis, who toward the end of the reign of the Qajar Dynasty were divided among Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

The Baluchis, like the Kords, are deprived of most of their indisputable rights, even the right to economic expansion, the benefits of which the ruling party would accrue as well. High prices, poverty, and unemployment caused the Baluchis to migrate en masse to the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms, Pakistan, and far-flung Asian countries.

Naturally, such a discordant situation limited the chances of a suitable life for the descendants of the noble Baluchis and dragged them into the arena of struggle. They look with optimism to their natural allies the Kords, who share the same strategic trench with them. [passage omitted]

Yes, they are the ones over whom the mullahs' regime will draw the curtain of silence in the future and they will prevent reporting on the heroic Baluchi people's resistance. There will be reports on clashes with "insurgents," "smugglers," and other miscellaneous groups.

Following his five-day visit to Khorasan Province the last week of the month of Tir [22 June—22 July], Yazdi met the prosecutors and the administrative cadres of the Ministry of Justice in the Districts of Mashhad, Birjand, Sabzevar, and Neyshabur, and intensively assessed their judicial performance. He then referred to the 1,800-km border with Afghanistan and Pakistan and said that at present, absolute security and peace reign in the region.

Probably the dear listeners will recall that cities such as Mashhad, Birjand, Sabzevar, and Neyshabur are names which the regime repeatedly refers to in its radio reports saying that scores of so-called smugglers, armed bandits, or arrested insurgents have been executed in the prisons of these cities.

The mullah Yazdi's visit to Mashhad and his praise for the city regarding the peace and absolute security in the region took place when the British newspaper INDEPENDENT cited Baluchi sources on a clash between the revolutionary Baluchi forces with the IRGC, in which at least 100 Guards were killed or wounded. Of course, the recent clashes spread towards the southern parts of Khorasan and the desert regions, and the regime launched air and armored patrols along these axes to control the area.

Hasan Habibi conveyed in a televised interview the glad tidings to the Hezbollahi nation that, regarding security and information, substantial barriers such as barbed wire, mines, barricades, and checkpoints and surveillance posts will be set up all along the borders of the Iranian Province of Sistan va Baluchestan with Pakistan's Baluchistan Province. This follows necessary agreements with Pakistan and coordination in the military field.

Yes, dear listeners. The mullahs' regime alludes to the closing of the borders, as if to say that the nearly 2 million Baluchis under the tyranny of the mullahs will be in such an abject state that some armed persons will come from outside to fight on their behalf against the mullahs, and that now, with the closing of the borders, this problem has been resolved.

The mullahs' regime wishes to conceal the fact that the valiant Baluchi people with their tradition of struggle and love of freedom and national pride have proven they will never surrender. Now, a handful of inhuman mullahs are rubbing their foreheads on the thresholds of the West and the East so they can ensure their rule, and are kissing the feet of a government such as Pakistan so they may assist them in repressing the Baluchi people. Yes. The mullahs wish to project their Baluchi compatriots as insane. [passage omitted]

We condemn all internal and external plots against the struggle of the Baluchi people and declare our support of the struggle of these tyrannized people. We hope for the further success of the Baluchi fighters. We hope for the day when the joint struggle of the oppressed peoples will make the tree of long-standing aspirations of tens of millions of Iranians bear fruit.

Pakistan

Sharif Pledges To Help Azad, Kashmir Government

BK0808071291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has assured that every possible assistance and means will be provided to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government for the development of the state and the welfare of the people. He was addressing the banquet hosted in honor of the new prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, and the new members of the legislative assembly at the prime minister's house in Islamabad last evening. Greeting the Muslim Conference on the securing of an overwhelming majority in the recent elections, he said this is evidence that the people of Azad Kashmir believe in Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan's party and his leadership. He suggested to the defeated candidates and parties in Azad Jammu and Kashmir that they accept the people's verdict cheerfully. Elections were held peacefully under the supervision of the People's Party's administration. Head of the supervision was the prime minister of the People's Party. Nawaz Sharif expressed confidence that the government will start a new era of development and prosperity in the state as people have given full power to the Muslim Conference. Despite a scarcity of means, Pakistan will provide every possible help to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government and its people. The prime minister described the difficulties and hardships of the people engaged in the freedom struggle in occupied Kashmir and described their struggle as justified. He expressed hope that the new Indian Government will respect the people's aspirations and will resolve the problem in accordance with the people's desires and the UN resolutions.

The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Abdu Qayyum Khan, thanked the Pakistani prime minister and people for their help and encouragement, which have always been extended to him as well as his party. He assured that the newly elected government of the Muslim Conference would not only fulfill the people's expectation but also leave no stone unturned for the welfare of the brethren engaged in the struggle for the right of self determination.

Spokesman on Soviet Team's Visit Comments

BK0808092491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Aug 91 p 1, 9

[By Aslam Sheikh]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 7—The long-awaited visit of a Soviet delegation to Islamabad for urgent talks on Afghanistan has now been finally scheduled for Aug 11 and 12. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while briefing newsmen, in Islamabad on Wednesday. [7 August].

This is seen here as a major step forward in the ongoing process of seeking a political settlement on the basis of the UN peace formula.

Pak-Soviet talks on Afghanistan have an important bearing on the second round of trilateral talks between Pakistan and Iran officials and Mojahedin leaders based both here and in Tehran, to be held in the Iranian capital on Aug 27 and 28. The first round was held here a week ago and ended inconclusively but on a fairly positive note, promising a further breakthrough in Tehran.

The Soviet team due here next week will comprise two fairly senior officials—Nikolai Ivanovich Kozynev and Yuri Mikhailovich Kotov—who conferred with a Pakistan Foreign Office official on Afghanistan some weeks ago when he visited Moscow. Earlier the visit was cancelled in the wake of fall of Khowst to Mojahedin.

Wednesday's announcement of formal dates for Soviet officials' visit as well as for Tehran talks belie some pessimistic reports of a setback to the UN sponsored initiative for early peace in the war-torn Afghanistan on the basis of UN peace formula on Afghanistan, unfolded by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. In fact, there are indications that the recent Pak-Iran understanding in Islamabad looks like giving a new impetus to the recent peace move.

Answering a question at the weekly Press briefing the Foreign Office spokesman said the Soviet team will also be discussing bilateral issues with their counterparts in the Foreign Office. He further said that so far there was no Soviet response to Pakistani Prime Minister's proposal for five-power talks on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. Possibly this subject may also figure in the forthcoming talks.

Meanwhile, according to a Kabul report in London ECONOMIST, ex-President Babrak Karmal who was in exile in Moscow has returned to Afghanistan. One view is that the initiative for his return has come from the Soviets. Perhaps it may also have to do something with the ongoing negotiations on Afghanistan.

APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] ADDS: The spokesman referring to the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] foreign ministers conference now in progress in Istanbul, (Turkey), said that its political committee adopted resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and Afghanistan issues which is extremely satisfactory from Pakistan's point of view.

Beg—Opposition Should Not Be Pushed to Wall

BK0808092091 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 8 Aug 91 p 1, 4

[Text] Quetta—General Mirza Aslam Beg, Chief of the Army Staff, has said that the enemy has launched a calculated campaign of disinformation to subvert the political stability in Pakistan and is exploiting the politico-socio contradictions for its motives.

Addressing the officers of the Command and Staff College Quetta on Tuesday, and a garrison Darbar here on Wednesday morning, General Beg said that "We should not fall prey to the enemy ploy and try to counter suchs threats through politics of tolerance and accommodation instead of conflict and revenge". He said only Pakistan was fortunate to have a political stable government in the region but the enemy was trying to destabilise it.

General Beg said that the problem could be best solved by national consensus. He said the opposition should not be pushed to the wall as "This has cost us dearly in the past."

General Beg said the officers and troops should not be disheartened by the current situation as this was a natural phenomenon in a "Democatic setup like that of ours". He said this system will gradually take roots".

Gen Beg, who was visiting different formation in Quetta as part of his farewell visits in his speeches dwelt at length on the security environment and army's preparedness to meet the challenges.

Gen Beg said that by the grace of Allah, Pakistan Army enjoyed full confidence of the nation and possessed professional pride and honour, which rightfully belonged to it. Gen Beg said that he was doffing off uniform with the utmost satisfaction that he had accomplished all these tasks which were assigned to him. "Today our army is not only capable of defending the country on its own but also has the capability to defeat the aggression in totality," he remarked.

Gen Beg, during his stay in Quetta visited the Corps and Division Headquarters, met the Corps Commander and General Officers Commanding in their respective office and discussed professional matters with them.

He also visited the School of Infantry and tactics, the Headquarters of the Balochistan Frontier Corps and witnessed a splendid display of firing at the short ranges. He appreciated the new system of pop-up-targets and praised the marksmanship of the troops.

Speaking at the dinner held in his honour, Corps Commander Lt Gen Abdul Waheed and Commandant of the Command and Staff College Maj Gen Tanvir Hussain Naqvi, paid rich tributes to the services of Gen Beg for building the professional image of the Pakistan Army.

They said the vision, dynamism and greater objectivity of General Beg had given Pakistan Army a new look sense of honour and pride the imprints of his professional maturity and dedicated leadership would continue to serve as a beacon light for the officers and men of the Pakistan Army in their professional pursuits, they added.

Reciprocating the sentiments, Gen Beg thanked for kind words spoken for him and said that whatever he achieved it was due to the nonchalant support and cooperation of all ranks of the Pakistan Army to his concepts and thoughts which were materialising today in the shape of a strong and confident army.

Sri Lanka

Fighting Continues Near Elephant Pass Camp

BK0808074191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 8 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, Aug 8 (AFP)—Government troops engaged in clearing up operations outside the Elephant Pass army camp in northern Sri Lanka have lost five more soldiers to rebel fire and mines, officials here said Thursday.

A military spokesman here would only say that five troops were killed and 29 others wounded Wednesday "due to resistance" from Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

Other military officials, however, said some soldiers died in separate confrontations with LTTE cadres on the outskirts of the camp, while others were killed by anti-personnel mines.

LTTE casualties were not available, officials said.

The spokesman said troops had consolidated their positions two kilometers south of the garrison and were Thursday continuing to expand their area of control.

More than 6,000 troops broke a 25-day LTTE siege of the camp on August 3 but have since run into resistance on the northern and western perimeters of the camp.

The latest casualties took the number of army dead to 169, since July 10 when the guerrillas made an abortive bid to overrun the camp. Officials estimate more than 1,575 LTTE rebels have died in the battle.

In a separate incident Wednesday, a navy craft destroyed a LTTE boat leaving the northern Jaffna coast for India, the spokesman said, adding at least three rebels inside the wrecked vessel were killed.

In a bid to prevent LTTE militants from escaping to India, the navy has stepped up surveillance of the Sri Lankan side of the small stretch of sea that separates the north of the island from southern India.

LTTE guerrillas frequently used to smuggle food, arms and ammunition from bases in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu to the Jaffna peninsula—their main stronghold in Sri Lanka.

However, following the May 21 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Navy has stepped up patrols to prevent LTTE militants crossing to the Indian state of Tamil Nadu in speed boats.

The LTTE is the number one suspect in Gandhi's assassination although the group has denied involvement.

Significance of Elephant Pass Operations Noted

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[Editorial: "Remember the troops"]

[Text] Not only the eyes, but the minds and hearts of this nation must turn towards Elephant Pass where thousands of young sons of Lanka are locked in mortal combat. It was inevitable that somebody should have borrowed President Saddam Husayn's language and label this conflict, which we must all hope and pray would be quickly ended, to be the "mother of all battles".

Prabhakaran, we are told, has chosen that description. Major-General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, who is commanding Operation Balawegaya, which is now into its second phase, had told a Sunday newspaper that "we're ready for the challenge".

The cost is heavy for both sides. The security forces of Sri Lanka have lost some 130 men since the fight for Elephant Pass began while the Tiger fatalities are estimated to be close to a thousand. The war that is being fought today is a conventional one with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] determined to take on the advancing troops in numbers.

It is no longer hit and run. Official spokesmen are on record saying that the Tigers have now acquired some anti-aircraft capability over and above the five zero weapons they had been using before, to fire at helicopters and low flying fixed wing aircraft.

The forces too have been beefing-up their equipment and manpower capability, though some of the equipment they would have liked to have had for an engagement such as this, like tracked vehicles, have unfortunately not arrived early enough. But morale and determination are high and troops are pressing forward towards their objective.

There must be a swell of pride in the heart of Sri Lanka about the long lines of young men volunteering for service in the forces. They are very well aware that their lives are very much at stake in the task they are seeking to do. But that is no deterrent to their determination to sign up.

The cynics would say, and are saying, that the enlistment queues are an index of unemployment in the country. It would be foolish to argue that there are no young people without work in Sri Lanka. But these young men who brave long queues for enlistment in the armed forces, do so with the full knowledge of the risks they are taking.

Those who would denigrate them as "mere job seekers" should do well to reflect on their own comfortable attitudes and remember that the men in the front and those aspiring to join them are the people who enable the rest of their countrymen to enjoy the many good things that remain abundantly available in a country that is at war.

That is why there must always be a consciousness of the men at the front. Even the Tigers, as we have said before, however, misdirected, are also sons of this soil. The people of the Jaffna peninsula, now having more suffering heaped on them with the LTTE commandeering available food stocks to feed their fighting men, must also not be forgotten.

Prabhakaran's intention on launching the attack on Elephant Pass would be manifold. He would certainly have been interested in seizing the weaponry in that camp and also not unmindful of a boost in morale by overrunning the camp if that is possible. Palaly and Karainagar were too difficult to take on, so Elephant Pass has been his choice.

There are many who believe that the LTTE leader hopes to negotiate from a position of strength and he believes that a victory at Elephant Pass would give him that opportunity. The deadline he set for the return of the tractors he took from Jaffna farmers to mount this attack is now past and it is obvious that things have not gone the way the LTTE planned.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa and his government have never gone back on the offer of a just peace. Mr. Mangala Moonesighe's private member's motion, if nothing else, indicates that the SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] or a section of it, favours a fair political settlement. While the battle rages at Elephant Pass it is not likely that the Tiger hierarchy wil think of peace talks.

A decisive victory for the security forces at Elephant Pass would perhaps be the best persuader that would hammer home the right message into the heads of the LTTE leadership. Let us hope then that this victory is won with least possible loss of life and limb and stage set for reaching out towards a just and durable peace.